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AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 18th December, at the Hotel Metropole, Shanghai, the wife of Capt. FRANK E. FOSS, of a daughter.

On the 19th December, at No. 6, The Bund, Shanghai, the wife of A. W. MITLAND, of a daughter.

On the 20th December, at No. 70, Chapoo Road, Shanghai, the wife of GEO. MARCAL, of a daughter.

On the 22nd December, at 19, Seward Road, Shanghai, the wife of W. THOMSON, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 21st December, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, Shanghai, by Sir Pelham L. Warr, n. K.C.M.G., and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral, by the Rev. C. J. F. Symons, B.A., WILLIAM BEAUFORT CLAYTON, of Shanghai, to MABEL ROSE, daughter of J. HENNINGSEN, formerly of Shanghai.

On the 21st December, at the Union Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. C. H. Hickling, JOHN ALEXANDER, third son of the late ROBERT PATTIE, of Rivaka Nelson, N.Z., to MARGARET, second daughter of the late CORNELIUS SCANLEN, of Cashel, Ireland.

DEATHS.

On the 24th December, evening, at his residence, CHANDANWADI, Bombay, COOVERJEE BOMANJEE SETNA. Deeply regretted.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The French Mail of the 27th of November arrived per M.M. steamer *Polynesia* on the 30th ult. (33 days); and the English Mail of the 4th ult. is due to arrive to-day per the P. & O. steamer *Bengal*.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Severe snow-storms are reported to have been taking place between Tokyo and Yokohama, interrupting telegraph service.

Yokohama foreign firms are declining orders for Rangoon and Indian goods, as well as Russian sugar, on account of the diplomatic situation.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent at S. Petersburg wires that a deputation from the Dalai-Lama of Tibet has arrived at Irkutsk en route to S. Petersburg.

A Japanese Imperial Ordinance is forthcoming placing the Seoul-Fusan Railway under direct Government supervision for speedy completion, according to the *N.-C. Daily News* Tokyo correspondent.

From Reuter's correspondent in London we learn that some of the English newspapers are urging the Government unhesitatingly to draw the sword for Japan should war break out, but the majority recommend calm and extreme watchfulness.

Ali Asger Khay, late Grand Vizier of Persia accompanied by Sir Claude MacDonald, British Minister at Tokyo, was received in audience by the Emperor of Japan on the morning of Christmas day, and subsequently to attend the royal luncheon.

There are persistent rumours at Portsmouth that our fleet in the Far East is about to be strengthened. The authorities profess ignorance. The Admiralty has ordered all naval reservists to notify addresses from which they can be summoned by telegraph.

The Kobe correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* telegraphed on the 23rd December:—There has been rioting by the Togakuto in Zenra province, Corea. This is the party that was active previous to the outbreak of the war between Japan and China. It is expected to maintain order.

It has been reported at Tientsin, according to the local *Times*, that the "threefold lever"—France, Germany, and Russia—was to be brought into operation again to coerce Japan; but it is pointed out that Japan is in a very different position now from that she occupied eight years ago.

It is announced that the Argentine warships *Moreno* and *Rivadavia* which are on the point of completion at Genoa have been sold for £1,500,000, through Messrs Gibbs and Sons, the firm through which the Chilean warships were recently purchased. The purchaser is now known to be Japan.

Russia has ordered 1,500,000 lbs. of mess meat from Cudahy & Co., South Omaha, and 1,500,000 lbs. from Armour & Co., Kansas City, to be delivered in San Francisco by the end of January. Japan has bought 100,000 barrels of flour at S. Paul's, and 11,500 tons of coal is loading at Norfolk, Virginia, for Japan.

On the 29th ult., at Shanghai, in the collision case between the C.P.R. s.s. *Empress of India* and the Chinese cruiser *Wong Tai*, judgment was delivered, the *Empress of India* being found solely culpable. Judgment was given in favour of the *Wong Tai*, with costs against the *Empress of India*. The amount of costs is not yet known.

M. Lessar, Russian Minister at Peking, is said to have informed the Waiwupu that no further steps towards the evacuation of Manchuria can take place at present, owing to the fact that the acuteness of the crisis necessitates the earnest examination of the probabilities regarding the attitude of the different Powers in connection with the question.

It was reported in Japan last week that the Government had chartered the steamers *Taichu Maru*, O.S.K., 3,220 tons; *Asosan Maru*, M.B.K., 1,705 tons; *Wakanoura Maru*, N.Y.K., 2,527 tons; *Sakura Maru*, N.Y.K., 2,979 tons; *Kokura Maru*, N.Y.K., 2,596 tons; *Ariake Maru*, M.B.K., 2,988 tons; *Mandensan*, formerly the *Pembrokehire*; and three others. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha, however, has denied the chartering of its steamers.

The Russian Press is showing alarm at the increasing numbers and activity of bands of Hunhuses in Manchuria. The bands, which are well armed, overrun the country and terrorise and pillage the inhabitants. The Russian troops are undergoing great hardships and suffering considerable loss in endeavouring to keep the bands in check. So at least says Reuter, who adds that the reorganisation of the Chinese army is causing considerable concern in Governmental circles in S. Petersburg, where it is viewed as a sign of distrust in Russia. That, of course, is surprising!

The following highly important telegram has reached us from our correspondent at Kobe, dated 29th December:—A Cabinet Council at Tokyo yesterday considered the question of authorising the Government to draw upon the 50,000,000 yen war indemnity paid by China according to the Treaty of Shimonoseki (which has hitherto been devoted to special purposes), with a view to the formation of a war fund. It was also decided to grant a subsidy exceeding two million yen for the Seoul-Fusan Railway, and to guarantee ten million yen debenture stock with a view to hastening the completion of the line. It is further proposed to raise a temporary loan and to issue exchequer bonds if necessary.

The *Weihaiwei Gazette* of the 17th December writes as follows:—It will interest our readers to learn that an important decision has been arrived at regarding the status of Weihaiwei as a commercial port, which may have an important effect on its future development. Some time ago the Chinese Customs authorities at Shanghai refused to grant drawbacks on goods in transit for this port, thus treating Weihaiwei as an ordinary Treaty port of China, though such drawbacks had hitherto been granted without any objection having been raised. This matter was referred to the British Minister at Peking, who made representations to the Government of China, with the result that Weihaiwei is now definitely recognised as a foreign port. The consequence of this recognition is that no duties will be charged on merchandise in transit to Weihaiwei, and drawbacks will be allowed on foreign goods re-exported thither which have paid import duty or on native goods which have paid coast trade duty at a Chinese port. Export duties will however, be collected on native goods, being an original export to Weihaiwei. In short, as a foreign port Weihaiwei is in the same category as Hongkong.

THE RECORD OF THE YEAR.

(Daily Press, 1st January.)

In the year which has just passed us, as in many of its near predecessors, the attention of the world—by which phrase is meant that of the newspaper-reading public—has been called frequently backward and forward to the Far East and elsewhere. The beginning of 1903 found it turned in other directions; as 1904 opens, it is intently fixed on the North-eastern corner of Asia, and the chief speculation, rightly or wrongly, is not whether war is on the point of breaking out, but on what day it will break out. Yet a year ago, though Russia's presence in Manchuria was not forgotten, what people were mainly thinking of in politics was the rebellion in Morocco, the growing anarchy in the Balkans, the difficulties with Venezuela, Britain's entanglement in Somaliland, and Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's tour in South Africa, then in full progress. Moreover, the Delhi Durbar was just finished, and the guests were thinking of departure. Another year finds Morocco still all unsettled, but the question is now rather whether France will absorb the country or not than whether any pretender is to oust the Sultan. The Balkan troubles still drag wearily on. It was about the beginning of April last that the acute stage of insurrection began, and the series of massacres by the various parties in the struggle soon made it seem impossible for such an atrocious situation to last. The Austrians and Russians were urging their reform schemes at the beginning of the year; but those schemes have not even commenced to come into effect. Meanwhile what certain papers like to call "a carnival of bloodshed" has been constantly raging. Yet one deed, also in the Balkans, almost stands out in infamous relief amid the disgraces of the Near East—the Servian regicide on the 11th June. Nothing has inspired such universal horror for very many years as the Belgrade murders. The Venezuelan difficulty has happily been got over without endangering international relations which Anglo-German action ran a slight risk of doing. The place of Venezuela as the storm-spot in South America has been taken by Colombia, or rather by Panama, whose break-away from Colombia, and the protection of the United States, may yet cause a war. Somaliland still continues to defy the British forces, and the Italians and Abyssinians as well, at the present moment; the country fights well for the Mullah's followers. In another part of Africa the 14th March saw Britain finally overthrow the powerful empire of Sokoto and restore peace to that region. Lower down the Germans have more recently had troubles in the South-west African possessions and have not disposed of them yet. Of the South African War the only echo was the trial of "Colonel" LYNCH, who was sentenced to death in January, his sentence being soon commuted. It is pleasanter to turn to affairs of peace, among which in 1903 the first place must be assigned to the tour of King EDWARD VII. in April, and onward to Lisbon, Rome, Paris, and later to Vienna. A notable result of this tour was the return visit of President LOUÏS last July and the conclusion in October of an Anglo-French arbitration treaty. Perhaps, too, King EDWARD's trip to Ireland may be also looked on as a visit of peace. In connection with arbitration one very important happening has to be recorded, namely the Alaska boundary award, the outcome of our negotiations with the United States. Unhappily the decision has given great offence in Canada, and though it may not really have weakened cer-

tainly has not strengthened the bonds between the Dominion and the Mother Country. This question of Anglo-Colonial relations has grown in 1903 to assume a larger place than ever in British politics, larger even than during the South African War. The mover in the matter is of course Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, who after returning in March to the Colonial Secretaryship began very soon to point out the weaknesses of our present fiscal position, and a speech at Birmingham on the 15th May, according to the home Press, marked an epoch in the commercial relations between England and the Colonies. After his resignation on the 16th September the question became even more burning, and though he has not converted perhaps with the Premier the majority of the more prominent Ministerialists, he has succeeded in forcing the issue on the country, and appears to appeal to a general election not without hopes. From fiscal matters to finance is not a long step, and in 1903 we find a most important matter of the world's finance prominent. During the year both the Straits Settlements and the Philippines adopted a gold standard, and the subject of the remaining silver countries "going gold" was eagerly canvassed. An United States and a Mexican commission visited Europe and discussed the question at the leading capitals. There can be no doubt that the conferences will not be ultimately fruitless. It is China that blocks the way; and on China we are told in Hongkong that we must wait. Before leaving general matters we must not forget the obituary of 1903, which, even if we limit it to the smallest possible extent, is one inflicting a heavy loss on the world, including as it does POPE LEO XIII., LORD SALISBURY, PROFESSOR MOMMSEN and HERBERT SPENCER. There are many lesser names deserving of mention, but these alone perhaps were world-famous memorials of the Nineteenth Century who have survived to the third year of this.

In the Far East the year has been one of outward peace, except in parts of the Philippines and in Kwangsi province, but during its latter half the condition has resembled that of a volcano suspected as being on the point of eruption. Even in the spring it was obvious that the question of Russia's policy in the North was going to cause serious difficulties. There were some who inspired their faith to the Port Arthur conference as likely to ease the situation, but the next decided step of Russia was the creation of a Viceroyalty of the Far East early in August, with Admiral ALEXIEFF, certainly not a man of peace, at its head. St. Petersburg continued, nevertheless, to preach peace; but in October war-scares began and have been frequent ever since. In the same month of October the aggression at Yong-ampho was witnessed, and it seemed remarkable that matters were not thereby precipitated. At the end of November a really grave alarm was given, and few would have surprised if an accidental collision had produced war. But the end of December has been reached and armed peace still prevails. The outcome no prudent man cares to prophecy. All through the year Russia has been hurrying men, arms, provisions, and the bulk of her Navy Far Eastwards. Japan is fully prepared, and it may be added that Britain is not a disinterested spectator of the situation. Between China and Russia the non-evacuation of Manchuria has at length succeeded in producing a definite estrangement, and the Chinese are more bitter than the Manchus at Russia's high-handed proceedings toward the end of the year. In the other extreme of the Chinese Empire Tibet is occupying attention, the Indian

Government having at last taken steps to put an end to the evasions of Tibetans and Chinese alike and to force the encouragement of Indo-Tibetan trans-frontier trade, so many years ago promised by Tibet and its suzerain. Turning to Central China, we find that the Yangtze region has passed through a less eventful year than usual, though riots, floods and other catastrophes have not been wanting. With the year at Shanghai we shall not attempt to deal, but will only mention that the *Supao* case, which divided the Consuls, the community, and the Press, has at length been settled, and, strange to say, no dissatisfaction is now heard at the verdict. The cause of justice and humanity combined triumphed; in his heart no one in Shanghai hoped for anything else, but national jealousies played a disproportionate part in the argument. Further south, 1903 has brought many changes with it to that most important part of the Chinese Empire, the Two Kwang provinces. The outlook was gloomy when the year opened; the rebels in Kwangsi, though their successes were much exaggerated in the North and in the Anglo-American and French Press, were seriously threatening the continuance of government in the Kwang and neighbouring provinces. But the advent of Viceroy SHUM in June was soon followed by a collapse of the insurrection, chiefly owing to the Viceroy's removal of corrupt and incompetent officials and the substitution of European-drilled troops for the cowardly "braves," etc., who had previously played into the hands of their opponents. H.E. SHUM was also confronted by a terrible famine in the disaffected province, leading even to cannibalism in some districts, but here European help, from Hongkong and from the United States, stepped in and reinforced the benevolent societies of Canton to such an extent as to save thousands of lives. The Chinese of the Two Kwang have good reason to thank the foreigners' humanity and, in the majority of cases, entirely unselfish labour in the famine-stricken region. Evidence, indeed, is not lacking that a more tolerant—perhaps we can hardly say more friendly—attitude prevails now in the Canton neighbourhood, for have we not seen on the 15th November last the Canton-Fatshan railway line opened, and since then its reception into favour by the natives of the affected districts? This has been a year of great talk about railway concessions in China, even in the British House of Commons. No enterprise of the kind promises greater results than the great Canton-Hankow trunk line, in connection with which is the little branch to Fatshan. For Hongkong a momentous question is involved in this railway to Hankow, for, as we have over and over again stated in these columns, if a deep-sea terminus for this line is not found in Kowloon, it will be found elsewhere, and then will depart a great part of Hongkong's prosperity. From this evil fate there is a remedy. Will the British Government refuse to use it and see ruin brought on its most valuable possession in the Far East?

In the Colony of Hongkong the year 1903 must certainly be counted as one of more than usual interest. Unhappily it has been cursed with plague (totalling 1,000 cases by the 4th June, and 1,415 cases, with 1,250 deaths, in the whole year) and with the annual water-famine. But the plague has been fought with resolution, the late Governor leading the way, and the drought borne with resignation, the Government having resolved to introduce a system which has been advised by some experts and which certainly gratifies the Chinese. The Public Health and Buildings Bill, which makes

a general attack on insanitary conditions here, was not allowed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to become law yet, as requiring consideration—by experts who have not been to Hongkong, presumably. But to compensate the Colony, there is the announcement in Sir HENRY BLAKE's farewell speech on the 21st November of his strong recommendation of the formation of an Improvement Trust for the Colony, a measure long advocated in Hongkong. With the improvements contemplated in this scheme our successors may indeed see a worthier Hongkong, healthier, better laid out, with suitable public buildings like the new Law Courts, whose foundation-stone was laid on the 12th November last, the new Post Office, which is to follow, and other replacements of our many unsightly public buildings. In the reconstructed Hongkong we are doomed, it is to be feared, to see the Admiralty Dock and Naval Yard still cutting in two the harbour-front, for the Admiralty has imposed too hard an alternative in the letter used as a reply to our petition this year. Yet 1903 has seen Hongkong make a distinct advance toward betterment in the past twelve months. One very burning question which has agitated the Colony in the same period has been that of the currency, a great meeting of the Chamber of Commerce taking place on the 19th February, when Mr E. OSBORNE's resolution in favour of the Straits Currency Commission extending its enquiries to Hongkong was carried. Nevertheless the supporters of a stable standard have had their hopes dashed to the ground and have seen our neighbours in the Straits and in the Philippines precede us.

Regarded from a commercial point of view the year has not been a prosperous one. It has been a period of suspense, of trial, and ill-rewarded effort. Exchange throughout played such fantastic tricks before high Heaven as might well have made the angels weep had they been traders, and they certainly confounded all calculations of the harassed merchant. The demand rate, which in January alternated between $1/6\frac{1}{2}$ and $1/6\frac{1}{4}$, rose gradually, with numerous fluctuations, until by the end of April it stood at $1/8\frac{1}{4}$, falling again by the end of May to $1/7\frac{1}{2}$. This tendency continued, with some slight relapses through July and August, when it reached $1/10\frac{1}{4}$. Further oscillations occurred in September and October, though the rate was on the whole fairly maintained; but the following month witnessed a fresh decline, the rate for the 30th November being $1/8\frac{1}{2}$. Since that date it has been weaker, but with frequent fluctuations, and the prospect ahead for its stability is little more encouraging than it was at the commencement of the year. In the Yarn trade, business has been almost stationary, and the actual sales show a slight decline over those of last year, the figures for arrivals and sales being:—

	1902.	1903.
Arrivals	238,962 bales.	293,875 bales.
Sales	172,250 "	170,567 "

Considering, however, the disorganised state of affairs in the interior of the Two Kwang, the vagaries of exchange, and the manipulations of operators in the Cotton Markets of the world owing to partial failure of the crops, the trade has shown remarkable elasticity. The first two of the above named factors have rendered the business here, generally speaking, profitless, though some few native dealers have realised advantageously. Most of the mills in Bombay are now working short time. The local Yarn Mill has done very fairly, though suffering, like the Indian mills, to some extent from short supplies of raw material.

The Opium trade, always one entailing risk, has during the past year, owing to the variations of exchange, been purely speculative. The import has been fully equal to that of recent years, and the demand for Bengal drug has shown a decided increase. This is due partly to the enhanced favour with which imported opium is regarded by the Chinese, partly to the diminished supply of native drug, and partly to the replacement of Persian by Bengal in Formosa, which island is supplied from Hongkong. Prices of all varieties have gradually risen, especially those for Bengal, and towards the latter half of the year rates have been well above the record. The Kerosene Oil trade shows a gratifying increase both in the volume of business and in the prices realised, the import for the year showing a gain of 23 per cent. on that for 1902. The deliveries were as follows:—

	1902	1903
American	1,677,000 cases	2,520,000 cases
Russian	7,000 "	30,000 "
Borneo	1,245,000 "	1,220,000 "
Langkat (Sumatra)	1,160,000 "	1,210,000 "
Dragon	153,000 "	260,000 "

4,242,000 cases. 5,240,000 cases.

The average prices paid were:—

	1902	1903
American	\$2.00	\$3.20
Russian	2.30	2.95
Borneo	2.25	2.95
Langkat	2.25	2.95
Dragon	2.30	2.70

As will be seen, the import of American oil increased some fifty per cent., and the prices show an improvement of nearly thirty per cent. Business in Piece Goods, both Cotton and Woollen, during the past year proved dull and dragging, Chinese only buying, for the most part, to fill immediate requirements. The steady rise in the price of Cotton, taken in conjunction with the fluctuations in the value of silver, have resulted in a smaller volume of business in Cotton Goods, but on the whole dealers and importers have not done badly. Home prices are out of reach generally at present, Cotton being quoted 7½d. The trade in Metals, though not much less in volume than last year, owing to the disturbed condition of the neighbouring provinces and the state of exchange, has proved unsatisfactory and unremunerative. The Flour trade, which has been annually growing for many years, did not in 1903 prove as satisfactory as usual. The volume of trade in Coal has been much as usual, more especially in Japanese and Australian varieties, but in Cardiff there have been few transactions, the fluctuations in exchange and the war scare latterly having affected prices and induced holders alternately to stiffen and relax rates. On the whole the demand for fuel has been rather smaller, and prices have ruled easier, in sympathy with the low rates of freight existing throughout the twelve months. In Exports there is no great development to record. Tea has long been gradually disappearing from the list, but this year the export of Canton and Macao Teas has been slightly larger than in 1902. In Silk, business has been curtailed by the high prices ruling. The crop proved short, and the export for the year has been smaller than that for 1902. The business has not, as a rule, been remunerative to exporters. A falling off is noticeable in many Sundries, but in Cassia and Matting the trade has been well maintained, the exports of both showing a considerable increase on those for the year before. 1902 was a bad shipping year, and the past year opened with indifferent prospects for Coast Freights, but these improved materially in March, when the demand for Tonnage exceeded the supply, and rates of Freight ruled strong. This fair promise

was, however, not long maintained, and the market soon quieted down, until in July rates became unremunerative. From that period things have gone from bad to worse, owing to a variety of causes, chief among which may be mentioned the partial failure of the Indo-China rice crop, the troubles in North China, the prohibition of immigration into the Straits Settlements, the quarantine imposed at other places, and the over-supply of outside steamers. The difficulty at the present time is not so much the dearth of cargo as the number of vessels competing for it. Rates for Saigon fell in some cases as low as 6 and 7 cents per picul, and Freights from Bangkok and Kohsichang were accepted recently as low as 8½ cents per picul respectively, a fourteen hundred miles trip! In every direction the depression has been felt, but it is accentuated on this coast. The Stock market has, on the whole, shown some improvement on 1902, but as compared with previous years has been most unsatisfactory. During the early part of 1903 there was a decided improvement in the volume of business, and values of most stocks improved, and this continued during the first six months; but, owing to the rise in exchange and the alteration in the Straits currency, large amounts of bullion were exported, causing great stringency in the money market, under the influence of which stocks gradually weakened, demand fell off, and values declined, until towards the close of the year things were worse than in 1902.

Several notable changes have occurred in the personnel of the Colony, in Government circles especially. Most important of all of course is the departure to take up the Governorship of Ceylon of Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, who has for five years administered Hongkong. It is so recently that we wrote of his departure that we need say nothing more now than that his closing speeches were listened to with great interest and revealed him perhaps more to Hongkong than before as a man who, however certain of his actions as Governor may have met with disapproval, was deserving of respect for his personal qualities and the courage of his opinions. Major-General Sir WILLIAM J. GASCOIGNE, our most popular Commanding Officer, preceded the Governor by over a month, and Commander MURRAY RUMSEY, so many years Harbour Master of this vast port, left too in the middle of September. The shifts in the local Government have accordingly been many. Major-General VILLIERS HATTON arrived last month to take up the supreme military command, but the administration of the Colony is still in the hands of H.E. Mr. MAY, whose graduation in the Hongkong Civil Service has inspired the Colony with confidence in his rule. It will not perhaps be till next June that we shall see our new Governor Sir MATTHEW NATHAN land on our shore. He will arrive at a period of utmost importance in the history of Hongkong, on whose governance in the near future no small issues for the British Empire in this part of the world will depend. In wishing that the best hopes of those here who care for the Colony may be realised, we also wish particularly for our readers

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR.

Sir Henry Blake seems to be reforming Government hours in Colombo a little. We read in the *Times of Ceylon*:—We understand that H.E. the Governor has sent an order to the Secretariat fixing the hours of work of the Government clerks from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. The time of beginning work now is half an hour earlier than has been the practice hitherto. His Excellency has also desired a record kept of the daily attendance.

THE NORTHERN CRISIS.

(Daily Press, 29th December.)

The Christmas holidays have passed by apparently without seeing any change in the situation up North. The papers brought down by steamers arriving from Shanghai and Japan are naturally very full of talk about war chances and preparations. Reports of the mobilisation of the Japanese army were current in Tokyo in the middle of last week, but nothing is known so far to justify them. The Japanese Government was also reported to have chartered ten steamers belonging to prominent shipping companies, but with regard to three of them, according to the Kobe correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has denied the report. Similar rumours are rife. But it is known that negotiations still hold the field, which will not be occupied by arms until negotiations fail. Our Shanghai morning contemporary's Tokyo representative stated last week that, in his conference with Baron Rosev on Monday, Baron KOMURA demanded that Russia should reconsider her recent unsatisfactory reply; but in Tokyo it is considered that Russia is now unable to make farther concessions. The correspondent continues:—"The situation is most grave. A *casus belli* will possibly be found in Corea, although Japan's chief contentions largely concern Manchuria." This is supported by the Kobe correspondent of the same paper, who says that the Russian reply to Japan denies that Manchuria is in the scope of the negotiations with Japan, and challenges Japan's view of the situation in Corea. "Corea is now the crux of the difficulty," he adds. From these and from other sources it seems now agreed that Russia has put aside the question of Manchuria as out of Japan's sphere of interest altogether. Russia indeed subscribes to an article appearing earlier this month in the *Novoe Vremya* from the pen of SIROMYAT NIKOFF, a well-known Russian writer. The article declares that Russia cannot restore either the whole or a portion of Manchuria to China; the Manchu dynasty is now recognised as a thing of the past. With regard to the Manchus, it may be admitted that there is very little of the dynasty left in the present. But that this practical extinction does away with the connection of Manchuria with the Chinese Empire or with the treaty rights of other Powers in Manchuria, Russia can hardly expect China or the Powers to accept without further protest. In endeavouring to transfer her dispute with Japan to Korean affairs alone, she has shown no little diplomatic skill, which, however, she seems likely to nullify by being over obstinate in Corea. It was thought that she might try to buy Japan off in the Manchurian question by concessions in Corea, seeing that Japan was at the same time her most pressing opponent in Manchuria and the dominant figure in Corea. Now, however, there are indications to show that even apathetic China is stirring about the Manchurian question (after how long!), and it is said that a new "Anti-Russian Society" is gaining members rapidly, even in the South, where the future of Manchuria might not be thought a matter of great concern.

REUTERS' news still continues to echo the pacific note from St. Petersburg. This note begins to grow less pleasing to the ear the longer it continues, in the absence of anything more tangible than mere sound. It is interesting to see that, according to REUTERS, "the Russian newspapers are displaying great irritation against the English Press, whose attitude seems to excite even greater animosity than is displayed against

the Japanese." The attitude of the English Press, to which objection is made, is of course one of sympathy with Japan, extending in some cases (as we think it should) to a declaration that Britain cannot see Japan crushed by Russia. Naturally the Russian newspapers feel that were Britain indifferent things would be easy for them, and there might be hopes of that "threefold lever" acting again, which robbed Japan of the chief spoils of her victory over China and transferred the bulk of them to Russia. Indeed at Tientsin, we read, a rumour has been current that the "threefold lever" is to work again. This may be dismissed at once; Japan does not stand now isolated as in 1895. Britain is not now indifferent. And on the desires of France and Germany it would now be less easy to play, whereas then it was safe. There will be no unfriendly pressure put on Japan to make her give way before Russia. She can this time "call Russia's hand," has indeed done so, and it must come down when that still undelivered reply is forthcoming.

(Daily Press, 31st December.)

The decision came to at Monday's Cabinet meeting at Tokyo is one of the highest importance, not because it shows the deep earnestness of Japan at the present juncture (for that we knew already), but because it reveals the manner in which Japan hopes to meet the enormous call upon her which will be entailed by war. Among other steps it was decided to authorise the Government to raise a temporary loan and issue exchange bonds, if necessary. No doubt Japan was encouraged by the ease in raising the new loan after the conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese Convention had been made; though she cannot disguise the fact that the peaceful circumstances of that time and the stormy surroundings of to-day are widely different. But it must not be forgotten that there are such things as loans of expedience, a notable feature of British policy on the Continent in past European history. It is interesting at the present moment to look at the financial position of Japan as set forth in the *Financial and Economical Annual of Japan*, recently issued for the Department of Finance at Tokyo. Among its pages is a table of the annual State revenue and expenditure, pertaining to the general account, from the years 1867-68 to 1903-04. Herein we see Japan rising from a revenue of 33,089,313 yen and an expenditure of 30,505,086 yen—surplus, 2,584,227 yen—to a revenue (estimated) of 251,681,961 and an expenditure (estimated) of 244,752,346 yen—surplus, 6,929,615 yen. There have of course been many fluctuations. The revenue was at its highest figure in 1900-01, when it reached 295,854,868 yen. Its lowest in the last fourteen years was the 98,170,028 yen of 1894-95, the time of the war with China. The highest expenditure was in 1900-01, 292,750,059 yen. Since 1897 the expenditure has never been below 200,000,000 yen. In 1896-97 it was 168,856,508 yen; before then it never reached 90,000,000 yen. Not since 1874 has there been a deficit, but in 1883-84 there was no surplus either. The largest surplus was the 33,115,541 yen of 1895-96; in the next financial year it fell to 18,162,915 yen, and has only once touched 7,000,000 yen since.

A table of the annual appropriation of the State expenditure has some interesting figures of the ordinary cost of the Army and Navy to Japan. In 1867-68, the joint cost was 1,059,798 yen. In 1870-71, the last year in which the accounts were together, the cost was 3,252,966 yen. In 1871-72 7,699,347 yen were assigned to the Army and 1,869,044 to the Navy. The Navy

account rose faster than the Army for some time, and in 1882-83 the figures were:—Army, 8,588,117 yen; Navy, 3,160,492 yen. No very notable increase occurred till 1896-97, when after the victorious war against China, the Army expenditure was raised to 22,613,590 yen and the Navy to 7,351,330. The rise has been steady since, and we find the estimated expenditures for the financial years 1902-03 and 1903-04 as follows:—Army, 38,432,317 and 38,495,727 yen; Navy, 10,837,646 and 10,563,532 yen. Turning to the extraordinary expenditure, this was high between 1896 and 1902, the Army reaching 38,714,310 yen in 1900-01 and the Navy 47,338,427 in 1898-99. Its estimated amount since is small.

In some remarks on the budgets for 1902-03 and 1903-04 the compiler of the *Annual* explains that owing to the dissolution of the Diet the budget for the seventeenth session was not passed, so that the previous year's budget is to be carried out for 1903-04, according to the provision of the Japanese Constitution; the budget scheme to be carried out for 1903-04 consists of the two estimates. The most notable points in the 1903-04 estimate compared with the former year's are an increase in the ordinary revenue from income tax, *sake* tax, sugar excise, and tobacco-leaf monopoly, "along with the development of general conditions of economy and the growth of the national wealth"; a decrease of the extraordinary revenue, there being no proceeds as in the preceding year from the sale of Chinese indemnity bonds; an increase of ordinary expenditure owing to more civil and military pensions and larger expenditure on education, Army, Navy, and communications; and a decrease of extraordinary expenditure, the repayment of a temporary loan in connection with the Boxer troubles having been completed, and through the approaching completion of the military and naval programmes unusual outlay on such objects decreasing.

It would be tedious to give more figures, though there is a lot that is instructive among their serried rows. However, it will be seen from what we have quoted that Japan has not large sums of money to play with, nor, on the other hand, is she in a desperate position. She has every ground for caution in undertaking a struggle such as that with Russia would be. Unlike a reckless gambler, she has a great deal to lose. But, as we have frequently stated before, she cannot afford to lose through inaction any more than through war. Nor can Great Britain afford to see her lose by either means. Happily there are indications that Britain is in this instance prepared for all eventualities. It is no secret that every ship in our China squadron, and every man in the Navy and Army out here, is under orders to be ready. If war broke out to-morrow, it would not find our forces a day behind. Naturally, we should have a period of neutrality at the beginning. There is no reason why this should not continue, if the Japanese prove victorious. But it is impossible to imagine that any Government in England could passively watch a Russian victory without intervention. Indeed it seems to us that now is the time for a strong declaration on the part of Great Britain, before hostilities commence, if commence they must.

A performance was given in Tokyo in Christmas week of two short plays, *Petticoat Perfidy* and *A Pantomime Rehearsal*. Sir Claude MacDonald was the chief organiser, and the proceeds were given to the Union Jack Club in London, a club open to all soldiers, sailors, or marines on leave or adrift.

THE TIBETAN QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 30th December.)

It seems very likely that among the questions to be settled in 1904 is that of the future predominance of outside influence in Tibet; or at least, if it is not settled next year, a great step towards settlement is probable. Hitherto, since the days of the eighteenth century, when Tibet was itself a nation fairly able to hold its own with its neighbours, China has been the one dominant influence; and so far did China encourage the natural exclusiveness of the Tibetans that no other nation ever succeeded in getting a footing. But in the latter half of the nineteenth century Chinese power in Tibet dwindled greatly, though her traditional influence might remain. Of late years there is no doubt, Russia, through the medium of some of her Buriat subjects, Buddhists of the same school as the Tibetans, has been making attempts to gain the footing previously denied. Perhaps reports in the British Press have rather exaggerated Russia's doings, but that they were not entirely groundless is plain from the admissions in the Russian papers. The latter have, in their turn, accused Britain of intriguing in Tibet, but the manner in which up to the present year we have allowed China and Tibet to ignore their promises to provide increased trade facilities across the Sikkim-Tibetan frontier should be a sufficient answer. Lord Curzon, however, has this year initiated a more worthy policy of insistence on the fulfilment of engagements, the outcome of which is the expedition now on Tibetan soil. Operations have not so far been of a very active or arduous nature. The inhabitants indeed have been passive rather than hostile. The Jelep Pass alone has been crossed yet, and it is only intended to advance to Gyangtse, some 150 miles from Lhasa itself, unless the attitude of the Tibetans renders further procedure necessary. China appears perfectly inert in the matter. As for Russia, rumours are many, including even an absurd tale of Russian engineers fortifying Lhasa, but beyond the bluster of the S. Petersburg Press little is heard about the opinion in the Tsar's Empire of the British expedition.

The first British attempt to open commercial communications between India and Tibet is 130 years old. The idea was that of WARREN HASTINGS, and he began to attempt to carry it out in 1774. As was but natural in those days of slow communications and in a land even then intensely exclusive, negotiations and efforts went on for years. HASTINGS left India in 1785, and his successors, less far-sighted than he was, abandoned the task. Even during the unsuccessful war of the Nepalese against Tibet and China in 1792, Britain did not intervene, which she might well have done with profit. Nearly another century passed before, in 1884, again a quarrel between Nepal and Tibet called attention to the question. In the interval it is true that small quantities of goods filtered into Tibet from India and vice-versa; and a few Indian natives, who had been trained by the Indian Geographical Department, penetrated into Tibet disguised as merchants. Even in 1885 a proposed British exploring expedition was totally defeated by the passive resistance of the Lamas, backed secretly by Peking; but, on Britain consenting to withdraw the mission, China signed an agreement at Peking in 1886, whereby she promised, "after careful enquiry into the circumstances, to adopt measures to exhort and encourage the people" [of Tibet] "with a view to the

promotion and development of trade." The Lamas, however, were excited by the British withdrawal and made the restrictions on trade greater than ever and even occupied posts in Sikkim, in consequence of which a military force was despatched against them from India in the spring of 1888. But a pause was soon made, to await Chinese mediation. This was so long in coming that in September of the same year the Tibetans were attacked and driven to Chumbi, a name which we often hear now. A Chinese emissary thereupon promised speedy opening of negotiations. The ultimate result of these was the Tibet-Sikkim convention of 1890, by which the British protectorate over Sikkim was definitely recognised, while the question of providing increased facilities for trade across the frontier was to be hereafter discussed, as also was that of the method in which official communications between India and Tibet should be conducted. In spite of this treaty, however, no steps whatever were taken by the authorities in Tibet with regard to increasing trade facilities, and another convention in 1893 proved equally ineffective. Ten years have passed, and Indian trade is barred out as closely as ever. It cannot be said that the Indian Government has not shown patience; others might call it by a harder name. But now it has been decided that Tibet and the vague influence of China behind must be brought to reason, and that no more excuses and passivity shall be allowed to prevent the carrying out of promises, some of them really seventeen years old. The course is the only dignified one possible. Hitherto the Indian Government has but succeeded in making itself ridiculous in the eyes of the Lamas.

BRITISH ENTERPRISE IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 28th December.)

At the annual dinner of the China Association held in London last month, EARL PERCY, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, availed himself of the opportunity to administer a well-deserved rebuke to those British owners of concessions in China who, having long since acquired their rights, have done nothing to take advantage of them. "It is of very little use for us to pile up concessions on paper," his lordship said, "and to point out as we have so often done with pride to the comparative share which has been allotted to us in contrast to the share allotted to foreign countries in the railway development of China, if British concessionaires alone among the nations of Europe take no steps to profit by the advantages which they have gained." His lordship went even further, and said he did not think it honourable or consistent for us to press upon China the urgent necessity of developing her resources as soon as possible, and at the same time claim for ourselves the priority of right of initiative over large areas of her most fertile provinces, the exercise of which is to be indefinitely postponed. We may take it from these few very pointed observations, which have been made before, though in terms scarcely so emphatic, that the Government appreciates the fact that the British syndicates which have concessions and are doing nothing to develop them, are by their inaction injuring in no small degree the prestige and interests of Great Britain in China. His lordship had evidently prepared this appeal to the concessionaires and the commercial community, for there was nothing in the preceding speeches which called for the observations by way of counter-accusation. Sir ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G., as President, had indeed pointed out once

more that while other nations had in the matter of territorial acquisition added greatly to their visible prestige in China, the benefits that have accrued to the British Empire are not yet apparent. "We hope to find, as time goes on," he said, "that our commercial interests at least have been safeguarded, and that, if we have retired from the competition of spheres of influence, we shall at all events find that the 'open door' and 'equal opportunity' have been secured for the trade of the British Empire and the world at large." There was no trace of unlimited confidence in Sir ALFRED's speech, which rather conveys the impression that things may not turn out as well as they promise on paper. It was quite in the nature of things, perhaps, that the representative of the Government in addressing such an audience as the members of the China Association should lay emphasis on the fact that the political policy of Great Britain in China was synonymous with her commercial policy, and that no political policy, however well devised, and however persistently pursued, can be of any real effect unless it is backed up by the earnest and patriotic support of the commercial community. It is certainly very satisfactory to find the new Under Secretary fully alive to the dangers which threaten British interests in China as in other foreign parts from the increasingly close connection between the spheres of State action and private enterprise in other foreign countries; and also to hear from him a recognition of the fact that England cannot pursue the opposite policy without serious risk unless private enterprise in all its branches,—manufacturers, merchants, shippers and capitalists,—realise the times, and the interdependence of their mutual interests, and by acting, possibly through the Chambers of Commerce as an organising intelligence department, make it impossible for any Government to plead as an excuse either for indefiniteness of aim or vacillation in policy the multiplicity and incoherence of the advice which it has received. Whatever the excuse, British policy in China has not always been distinguished by a definiteness of aim, although the Foreign Office has never lacked advice from Chambers of Commerce and the China Association. However, such a suggestion, coming as it does from one in the position of the noble Earl, will no doubt be readily accepted and this connection between State action and private enterprise is certain to beneficially affect the interests of trade.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon in the Board room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided, and there were also present Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General; Captain F. W. Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. Fung W. Chun; Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Rijnjahn, Dr. W. W. Pearse, Acting Medical Officer of Health; Dr. B. Barnett, Assistant Medical Officer of Health; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

EXTERNAL AIR.

Mr. HEWETT put the following questions:—
(1.) With regard to the discussion which took place at the meeting of the Sanitary Board on the 17th instant as to the definition of "External Air," will the President be good enough to lay before the Board a memorandum showing the difference which exists between the definition as put forward by the Sub-Committee and adopted by the Sanitary

Board and that now embodied in the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance of 1903 (No. 1 of 1903) and passed at the Legislative Council Meeting on the 14th instant?

This information is asked for as the objects and reasons of the amended Bill state a new definition of the expression "External Air" is submitted in order to give effect to the Board's recommendation.

(2.) With regard to the above amended Ordinance, will the President be good enough to explain to the Board the exact meaning of the definition of "External Air" as shown in Sub-section No. 26 of Part I?

The SECRETARY read the replies as follows:—

(1.) The Public Health and Buildings amendment Ordinance definition of external air differs from the Board's definition of external air in the following respects:—(1) The Public Health and Buildings Amendment Ordinance definition requires the open space in all cases to be 13 feet wide and to extend parallel to the building for at least 5 feet. (2) The Board's definition allows an open space which extends along the side of existing and new buildings to count if it extends three-fifths of the depth of the building and is 12 feet wide.

(3) The Board's definition allows a street 8 feet wide in front of an existing building and an open space which extends continuously along the side of the building and is 8 feet wide to count as external air. The attached diagrams will explain clearly the differences between the two definitions. (Diagrams laid on the table.)

(2.) This question is answered by Diagram A. (Diagram laid on the table.)

POWERS OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Mr. RUMJAHN asked the following questions:—

(1.) With reference to the answer given at the last meeting to my question No. 4, will the Vice-President be pleased to quote the Section (if any) in the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance No. 1 of 1903, under which he, as the Building Authority, is empowered to authorise Sanitary Inspectors to enter and inspect domestic buildings for the purpose of ascertaining the existence or otherwise of "building nuisances"?

(2.) Will the Secretary be pleased to state under which of the provisions of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, No. 1 of 1903, or, under what authority, notices for the abatement of "building nuisances" are being made out in the office of the Sanitary Board instead of the office of the Building Authority?

(3.) Will the Secretary be pleased to state under what authority or standing order (if any) Sanitary Inspectors are engaged in serving notices for the abatement of "building nuisances" and in attending the Police Court to prove the existence of such nuisances, on behalf of the Building Authority?

The SECRETARY read the answers as follows:—

(1.) Section 227 of Ordinance 1 of 1903.

(2 and 3.) No authority is required for the making out of notices or for the service of such. The making out and serving of notices by the Sanitary Department are inter-departmental arrangements. Under Ordinance 13 of 1901 there were many matters dealt with by the Sanitary Board's officers which on the passing of the present Ordinance were transferred from the Public Health section of the Ordinance (Part II) to the Building section (Part III). When it was discovered that the Board had no power to take action with regard to many matters—e.g., backyards, window areas, cubicles—with which it had previously concerned itself and to which the sanitary inspectors all along had been giving their attention as being part of their routine work, it became necessary to come to some agreement with the Building Authority on this matter. It was decided that the sanitary inspectors should still continue to inspect their districts in the same manner as before but that the legal notices with regard to any nuisances reported by the inspectors should be issued under the hand of the Building Authority.

EXTERNAL AIR.

Hon Mr. POLLOCK had given notice that he would ask the following questions of the Vice-President:—

(1.) Will you state how many houses (approximately) there are in the City of Victoria? Will you also state how many houses (approximately) in the City of Victoria will require exemption by the Governor in Council, under the definition of "external air" which appears in Section 2 of Ordinance No. 23 of 1903? Will you also state how many houses (approximately) in the City of Victoria have windows fronting on lanes which are less than 13 feet in width?

(2.) Is it not the fact that the dimension of 13 feet was inserted in the definition of "external air" in Ordinance 1 of 1903 because there was a mistaken impression that every third house would be pulled down and would thus enable every cubicle to be lighted by lateral windows opening into a space thirteen feet wide? If you contend that the above is not the fact, will you, please, state how the said dimension of 13 feet came to be fixed upon in the said definition, and will you also please refer me to any speech, document, or paper, in support of your contention?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Before replying to the questions, sir, I would just state that I am here as an ordinary member of the Board, and no member of this Board has any right to give notice of questions to me in the form in which these have been given notice of here. At the same time I hope I shall always be found willing to impart any information that may be in my power to members of this Board in connection with matters that may be within the purview of the Board. With regard to question No. 1, according to the M.O.H.'s report for 1902, there are 9,040 houses in the city. I am quite unable to answer the second part of the question. As regards this part a statement of narrow lanes is contained in appendix 9A of the Insanitary Properties Commission's report, 1893. It shows about 807 houses as fronting on lanes under 13 feet in width, and of these about 232 front on lanes of 12 feet in width or over. These figures have probably undergone modification since the report was published as, under the Building Act of 1889, houses fronting on private lanes had to be set back at least 7½ feet from the centre line of the lane upon reconstruction, and doubtless some of the houses included in the statement have been reconstructed. As regards question No. 2, Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, "External Air": the original Public Health and Buildings Bill was dated 1902, and was read a first time 7th July, 1902. Section 149 in it contained the following—"For the purposes of the four foregoing sections the expression external air shall mean a clear and unobstructed space extending the whole length of the wall in which such window or windows have been made, and of a width throughout of not less than one-third of the height of such wall. There was no proviso of any kind as to a modification of the above requirement being made in any case. The above Bill was withdrawn on the 6th November, 1902, never having got beyond the first reading on account of the Governor's (Sir Henry Blake's) return to the Colony soon after that event. On the same date, 6th November, 1902, an amended Bill was read a first time. In it "External Air" appears among the definitions (Section 6) and is defined as a clear and unobstructed open space of a width throughout of not less than 13 feet." The amended bill also contained the following proviso to Sect. 152:—Provided that, in the case of existing buildings the Governor in Council shall have power in special cases to modify the requirements of this section in respect to the external air. The words "upon such conditions, if any, as may be deemed expedient" were subsequently added, otherwise the definition and proviso passed through the Legislative Council.

Speaking from memory the dimension of 13 feet was arrived at in this way. Most of the ordinary Chinese houses are three stories in height. The height of a three-storied house is about 40 feet and one-third of this is about 13 feet. Instead, therefore, of leaving the definition as it originally stood, namely, one-third of the height of the wall, the width of the open space constituting external air was fixed at 13 feet. This was regarded as singular and more definite whilst practically giving effect to the intention of the original

definition. It was recognised that dimension would about cover the provision of these spaces at the sides of ordinary Chinese houses if an intermediate house were demolished in whole or part, but in case it did not the power of modification was inserted. There is no speech, document, or paper, so far as I am aware, leaving out the above statement, as the matter was settled at a conference held at Government House in October, 1902.

The PRESIDENT—With reference to the Vice-President's remarks concerning the form in which these questions have been put, I think members would be more in order if in future questions were put to the President. Then I shall endeavour, myself, or from any other source available, to give the information asked for.

OFFENSIVE LATRINE.

On the motion of Mr. HEWETT, seconded by Mr. LAU CHU PAK, it was agreed to recommend the Government to resume the block at 2, Gough Street, in which a latrine is placed.

EXEMPTIONS.

Exemptions were granted in respect of 31, First Street, for the provision of a backyard; for the provision of open spaces in respect of certain houses on Kowloon Inland Lots 1089, 1091, 1092 and 1093; from the provision of open spaces in respect of Nos. 48 and 58 Des Vœux Road Central; and from the provision of full open spaces for Nos. 2 to 7, Star Street.

MARKET ACCOMMODATION.

Further correspondence was submitted relative to the application for the renewal of licence to sell fresh pork at No. 18, West Street.

Mr. Rumjahn minuted:—"It must be admitted that market accommodations are not sufficiently provided for the needs of the Colony—hence prices of food are ever on the increase. The more licences are granted there would be a greater chance to lower down the prices."

The PRESIDENT said he understood the applicant wanted the licence only until China New Year.

The application was granted on these conditions.

LIMEWASHING.

The limewashing returns for the fortnight ended 22nd December showed that 771 houses in the Western District had been cleansed.

RAT RETURN.

The rat return showed that during the fortnight ended 23rd December 792 rats were destroyed; of these 9 were found to be infected.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Mr. Frank Browne's report on his analysis of the public water supplies for December showed that he had found the water to be of excellent quality.

WELLS TO BE CLOSED.

The PRESIDENT said it would be remembered that at last meeting the question had been considered of closing two wells, one on K.I.L. 1,092 and the other at Man Lam garden, and the matter was adjourned in order that the Medical Officer of Health might furnish further particulars. These had been obtained. In view of Dr. Macfarlane's report Dr. Pearce thought it advisable to close the wells, but as there was no standcock within 400 yards of one of the wells, suggested that the Public Works Department be asked to put up a standcock somewhere near. He moved that the wells be closed provided that a water supply be otherwise provided.

This was agreed to.

This was all the public business.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS.

The PRESIDENT—As this is the last time on which the Board will meet this year I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. (Applause.)

AMENDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

The Board afterwards sat in committee to consider the report of the sub-committee appointed to consider what amendments appear advisable in the Public Health and Buildings Bill.

H. R. H. Princess Louise of Schleswig-Holstein, who was due in Colombo on the 28th instant, was to be a guest of H. E. Sir Henry and Lady Blake during her stay in Ceylon. Sir Henry Blake's first leave at Colombo was on the 14th ult.

PORTUGUESE MINISTER IN HONGKONG.

The Portuguese Minister to Peking, Senhor Conselheiro Jose d'Azavedo Castello Branco, arrived from Europe on the 30th ult. by the M. M. s.s. *Polynesian*. He was met on the steamer by Senhor Conselheiro A. G. Romano (Consul-General for Portugal at Hongkong), Senhores J. J. Leiria (Vice-Consul for Portugal at Hongkong), Moraes (Consul for Portugal at Canton), C. Assumpcao (Portuguese interpreter to Macao), and Dr. L. G. Forte (Acting Colonial Secretary of Macao). Senhor Branco is now staying at the King Edward Hotel; he leaves for Macao, where he will enjoy a rest previous to proceeding to Peking, by the Portuguese gunboat *Diu*, this morning. Senhor Moraes returned to Canton, and Dr. Forte left by the *Heungshan* for Macao, yesterday. Dr. Forte's reason for leaving in advance is to prepare for the arrival of Senhor Branco. Senhor Branco's mission at Peking is to make some important treaty with China regarding Portuguese possessions in the South.

AL FRESCO FETE IN MACAO.

As previously announced in these columns, a bazaar and *al fresco fete* in aid of funds for the support of the various orphanages and other charitable institutions in Macao was held on Saturday and Sunday last at that place. The weather was perfect, and was, indeed, an ideal day for such a function. Gentle breezes were blowing, and thus it was most pleasant to promenade through the beautiful San Francisco grounds in which the fete was held, while visitors from Hongkong enjoyed the change from the sultry stillness prevailing here during the last few days. The idea of holding the fete on the days mentioned was a very happy conceit, as, at such a season, of goodwill, love, and charity, any appeal on behalf of the orphans, of whatever country, or wherever supported, must find ready response and practical support. That this appeal reached the hearts of Hongkong residents was proved by the large crowds going over to Macao on both days, large numbers stopping over for the two days, nor did they go empty-handed, as could be seen from the lines of rickshas leaving the grounds for the steamers, laden with parcels and packages, big and little. The grounds themselves had been most tastefully decorated, with palms, evergreens in immense lengths twisted about the pillars and posts—even to the lamp-posts, after the manner to be seen in most English churches at this season; here, also, were the flags of all nations, while Chinese and Japanese lanterns were slung wherever they would have most effect. In the centre was the bandstand, and there during the afternoons and evenings of the two days the band of the Guards (Portuguese) played a very fine selection of airs, mostly English, which the British visitor fully appreciated. The stalls had been laid out in long rows, and were all most tastefully covered with all kinds of articles, from pen-wipers to satin hand-painted cushions, and from lace collars to warm socks, nearly all the work of the orphans themselves, some being also the gifts of residents of Macao. Here there were lucky bags, and there surprise-packet stalls; and here the refreshment stall, which was doing, perhaps, more than its fair share of business. Dainty young ladies flitted around with cigars and button-holes, and literally magnetised the dollars out of the pockets of the holiday-makers. And all the time the sun shone on, genially smiling on the gay and animated scene, and making glad the hearts of those concerned or interested. Perhaps the lucky-bag afforded most merriment, as one incident alone will show. A young gentleman approached the bag, and, urged on by the ladies' wiles, timidly placed his hand in the bag, to draw out—what?—two pairs of tiny bifurcated and lace-trimmed garments for a baby, to the intense amusement of his friends, a circle of whom soon gathered to join in the chaff. Placing these in his pockets he hurriedly disappeared from view. During the afternoon the Right Rev. D. Paulino d'Azavedo Castro, Bishop of Macao, accompanied by the Rev. B. Nunes, his secretary, visited the grounds and made several purchases. There were also

present Dr. L. Forte, Acting Colonial Secretary, Dr. A. de Magalhaes, Chief Justice, Messrs. Basto, Cabral, and their respective families, beside a large number of prominent residents of Macao, and visitors from Hongkong, while it was remarkable what a number of nationalities were represented, and elbowing each other in their haste to be charitable—the Chinese, it was also remarked, not being behind hand in coming forward with the dollars, in aid of these very deserving charities, and the committee, with their indefatigable hon. secretary, Mr. A. J. Basto, jun., are heartily to be congratulated at the success attending their untiring efforts and zeal in this great cause, which there can be no doubt has placed those most worthy institutions in a secure position for at least the next year. *En passant*, it might be mentioned that the diligence and care with which the orphans are trained was abundantly evidenced by the excellent work, both in conception of design and consummation of detail, exhibited and sold at this Bazaar.

A few words may be said of the delightful trip to Macao. Leaving her wharf at 9.30 a.m., that very comfortable boat the *Wing Chai* was soon on her way to Macao, in glorious weather. The breeze, which had been somewhat chilly while waiting for the start, was no longer felt, to any degree of discomfort, as the boat was going with the wind, and as the various points of interest dropped astern others arose ahead. It was interesting, too, to see the small hamlets nestling in the vales with their background of green hills, and their foreshores lapped by the gently rolling waves. Macao was reached at 1.20 p.m., and then all became bustle in the rush to the scene of the day's business and pleasure. The return journey was again delightful, though very cold on deck, but the *Wing Chai* possesses many cosy corners, in the lee of boats and deck cabins etc., and thus, after a pleasant and instructive trip, Hongkong was once more reached at 11.30 o'clock on Sunday night.

BRUTAL CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

A case has been brought to our notice of gross cruelty to animals shipped from Chefoo to Manila via Hongkong, and we certainly think it is one which the Government here and the local S.P.C.A. too should take up. Our informant is Mr. J. Clifford Wilkinson, who is passing through Hongkong and who gives us permission to use his name as authority for the statements. It appears that 80 mules, destined for the Manila Government, were brought down from Chefoo to Hongkong and here transhipped. On the 18th inst. they left Hongkong on the s.s. *Kaifong* bound for their destination. Mr. Wilkinson informs us that the mules were embarked "higgledy-piggledy," and without an attendant to look after them. The *Kaifong* encountered exceptionally bad weather on the voyage, the seas running exceedingly high and dashing over the vessel. The food for the mules was soon saturated with salt water, while the poor beasts themselves were unable to keep their footing on the slippery decks and slid all over the place; those below were in still worse condition from lack of air. Mules are exceptionally hardy animals, but the fearful treatment they received may be gathered from the fact that on arrival at Manila 18 of the 80 were already dead, and others must have succumbed to exhaustion after landing. No blame whatever, Mr. Wilkinson declares, attaches to Capt. Pennerfather or any other officer on the *Kaifong*, who were most humane and did all they could for the unfortunate mules: the vessel indeed was hove to for 24 hours to lessen their sufferings, causing her to take 4 days on the voyage. It is obvious that the fault had nothing to do with the company. But the questions that want answering are: (1) Who is responsible for the beasts being entirely unattended and improperly put on board? (2) What authority in Hongkong looks after beasts shipped or transhipped at this port? Can the answers to these questions be supplied?—*Daily Press*, 30th December.

With regard to the treatment of a consignment of mules from Chefoo to Manila, transhipped at Hongkong, which we described in yesterday's issue, we may point out that the regulations published on the 29th September

last under Section 8 of The Live Stock Import and Export Regulation Ordinance, 1903, and published in the *Government Gazette* of the 2nd October, cover such cases most clearly. These regulations prevent any such cruelty to animals as our informant described, and No. 5 of them prescribes that "the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon and any Police Officer may board any vessel" to ascertain whether they are complied with. Further, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon by Regulation 2 is to inspect any vessel leaving the port, carrying more than 10 head of cattle, and not to give a certificate to enable the Harbour Master to clear the vessel unless the regulations are observed.

There are, we are informed, more mules coming down for transhipment to Manila.—*Daily Press*, 31st December.

SEAMEN'S MISSION, HONGKONG.

The Annual Tea and Meeting of this society was held on Wednesday evening, the 30th ult., in the Seamen's Institute, Kowloon. The proceedings commenced with a sumptuous tea of which some 200 men of the Naval and merchant services partook. Subsequently the annual meeting was held in the upper room, and Rear-Admiral Robinson made his first public appearance since his appointment to flag rank. Needless to say, he received a very hearty reception from the sailors present. The choir of St. Peter's Church was in attendance on the platform, and aided by some friends rendered a number of Christmas carols in a very effective manner, under the direction of Mr. H. Sykes, Hon. Organist of St. Peter's Church. Solos were sung by Miss Golding, Mrs. Brown, Miss Cissie Low, Mr. R. Piercy, and a recitation from *Three Men in a Boat* was given by the Hon. H. E. Pollock in such a manner as to call forth the frequent applause of the audience. Amongst those on the platform were the Revs. F. Leely, R.N., C. Moore, R.N., G. Bunbury, W. J. Southam, and J. Jenkins. The Chairman (Admiral Robinson) read a letter from the Bishop of Victoria, expressing his great regret at not being able to be present.

The report of the work accomplished during the past year was read by the Rev. T. Wright. Owing to the latter having been single-handed for the greater part of the year, the statistical returns in some departments were not quite so favourable as in the previous year. Still a great amount of work had been done thanks to the generous and self-denying assistance of many lay helpers of both sexes. The congregations and offertories at St. Peter's Church had been well maintained throughout the year. The Mission launch *Dayspring* had been kept busy in the work of visitation and in conveying men to and from the services, concerts, temperance meetings, &c. Over 100 temperance seamen had been enrolled. Good work had been done in the prison amongst the seafarers there, and a large number of parcels of reading matter placed on board outward-bound ships. Attention was drawn to the great need of a new institute for sailors on the Hongkong side of the water, where men on leave would be able to refresh mind, body, and spirit. The present accommodation was inadequate to meet the requirements of the seafaring community at certain times of the year more especially. The Kowloon Institute had been doing steady work during the year and was likely to be able to meet all the needs on the mainland for many years to come. It is now under new management and is likely to be a centre of much usefulness during the coming year.

Amongst those who addressed the meeting subsequently were the Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Rev. C. Moore, Rev. J. Francis, and Admiral Robinson. The latter, in a racy speech, emphasised the need of enlarged accommodation for the seafaring community, and thought, if some of our local magnates were approached and the need pointed out to them, the matter would soon come within the realm of practical politics. He drew attention to the fact that Hongkong owes everything to its shipping, and consequently a duty lay upon it to do everything possible for the sailor who brings it its wealth and power. The Hon. H. E. Pollock also spoke on the same subject, and urged it

upon the friends of the sailor, as did also the Rev. C. Moore, H.M.S. *Albion*.

The Senior Chaplain (Rev. J. H. France), in a neat speech proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to Admiral Robinson, who had made an excellent chairman, and congratulated him in the name of the sailors of Hongkong on his well-deserved promotion. The proposition was seconded by Rev. T. Wright, and three ringing cheers testified to the popularity of Admiral and Mrs. Robinson. His breezy *bonhomie* contributed greatly to the success of the gathering, and when the benediction had been pronounced by the Rev. J. Icely all felt that they had spent a most enjoyable evening.

MASONIC AFFAIRS.

ZETLAND LODGE.

The Right Worshipful Deputy District Grand Master of Hongkong and South China, the Rt. Wor. Bro. E. C. Ray, on the 28th ult. installed Wor. Bro. J. W. L. Oliver as W. M. of Zetland Lodge, No. 525 E.C., for the ensuing year, in succession to Wor. Bro. B. Brotherton Harker. Wor. Bro. Oliver installed his officers as follows:—Senior Warden, Bro. H. Sykes; Junior Warden, Bro. W. H. Purcell; Chaplain, Bro. H. B. Townshend; Treasurer, Wor. Bro. G. J. B. Sayer; Secretary, Wor. Bro. J. Piercy (jun.); Senior Deacon, Bro. A. H. Skelton; Junior Deacon, Bro. A. E. Crapnell; Dir. of Ceremonies, Bro. J. C. Lowe; Organist, Bro. C. F. L. Donkin; Inner Guard, Bro. J. Parkes; Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone; Stewards, Bros. W. King and C. R. Fittock.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF H.K. AND S. CHINA.

At the 28th regular annual meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Hongkong and South China, held at Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, Victoria, Hongkong, on the 29th ult., the 29th December, 1903, the following appointments for the District Grand Lodge during the year 1904 were made:—

Deputy District Grand Master, Wor. Bro. E. C. Ray; District Senior Grand Warden, Wor. Bro. Thomas Fred Hough; District Junior Grand Warden, Wor. Bro. Augustus Shelton Hooper; District Grand Chaplain, Wor. Bro. G. P. Lammert; District Grand Treasurer, Wor. Bro. G. Piercy (Jr.); District Grand Registrar, Wor. Bro. F. D. Goddard; District Grand President of the Board of General Purposes, Wor. Bro. G. J. B. Sayer; District Grand Secretary, Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin; District Senior Grand Deacon, Wor. Bro. C. J. Lafrentz; District Junior Grand Deacon, Wor. Bro. E. A. Stanton; District Grand Superintendent of Works, Wor. Bro. G. G. Barnett; District Grand Director of Ceremonies, Wor. Bro. C. W. Longuet; District Grand Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Wor. Bro. E. W. Hinds; District Grand Sword Bearer, Wor. Bro. F. H. Siemssen; District Grand Standard Bearers, Wor. Bros. J. W. L. Oliver and H. Eathurst; District Grand Organist, Bro. G. Grimbale; District Grand Pursuivant, Wor. Bro. W. H. Woolley; District Grand Assistant Pursuivant, Wor. Bro. C. H. Grace; District Grand Stewards, Bros. H. Sykes, C. A. D. Melbourne, J. N. Varcoe, H. Croskey, H. Dulloch, and R. D. Thomas; District Grand Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

One of Hongkong's showiest shrubs, of which there are several specimens in the old garden, is just beginning to open its flowers. This plant bears the name of *Rhodoleia Championi*, and it was considered until a few years ago to be very rare, as not more than half a dozen specimens were known to exist in a wild state, and these were growing somewhere on the north side of the island in a place which we have never been able to discover. Nevertheless, we have not given up hope of finding these particular trees, but, in the meantime, there is some satisfaction in the fact that a few years ago we came across about two hundred trees, varying in height from a foot to 15 or 20 ft., on the south side of the island. Dr. Augustine Henry has also found this

species, as well as another, in Yunnan, where, he informed us, it grows to be a large tree. The flowers are from bright pink to almost claret in colour, several together, forming heads which have the appearance of a semi-double camellia instead of that of several flowers. These heads are about 1½ to 2 inches across, and the rusty-coloured bracts which surround them greatly add to their beauty. They are produced in large numbers in the axils of the thick leaves which are crowded together at the ends of the branches.

Several beds on the lower terrace in the old garden are now bright with winter-flowering annuals.

HONGKONG TYPHOON SIGNALS.

A NEW CODE.

A new code of meteorological signals comes into force at Hongkong on New Year's Day; the same as those at present in use at Shanghai. They will be hoisted on the mast beside the time-ball at Kowloon Point for the information of masters of vessels leaving the port. They do not necessarily imply bad weather is expected. The signals are as follows:—

A cone point upwards indicates a typhoon to the North of the Colony.

A cone point upwards and drum below indicates a typhoon to the North-East of the Colony.

A drum indicates a typhoon to the East of the Colony.

A cone point downwards and drum below indicates a typhoon to the South-East of the Colony.

A cone point downwards indicates a typhoon to the South of the Colony.

A cone point downwards and ball below indicates a typhoon to the South-West of the Colony.

A ball indicates a typhoon to the West of the Colony.

A cone point upwards and ball below indicates a typhoon to the North-West of the Colony.

Red signals indicate that the centre is believed to be more than 300 miles away from the Colony.

Black signals indicate that the centre is believed to be less than 300 miles away from the Colony.

The above signals will, as heretofore, be hoisted only when typhoons exist in such positions or are moving in such directions that information regarding them is considered to be of importance to the Colony or to shipping leaving harbour.

NIGHT SIGNALS.

Two lanterns hoisted vertically indicate bad weather in the Colony and that the wind is expected to veer.

Two lanterns hoisted horizontally indicate bad weather in the Colony and that the wind is expected to back.

The signals are repeated on the flagstaff of the Godown Company at Kowloon, and also, by day only, at the Harbour Office and on H. M.'s Receiving Ship.

LOCAL STORM-WARNINGS.

The Colony itself is warned of approaching typhoons by means of the Typhoon Gun placed at the foot of the mast, which is fired whenever a strong gale of wind is expected to blow here.

NOTES FROM THE NEW TERRITORY.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

28th December.

XMAS AND THE WEATHER.

Though we had a relapse into colder weather during the Xmas week-end, the temperature immediately before that was exceedingly low for this part of the country. On one or two mornings there was a distinct hoar-frost visible in some parts. All over the valley the green tops of the sweet potatoes are to be seen blighted and blackened by the unaccustomed visitant. A curious thing is that one will find within the area of a single acre some patches that have been entirely blighted, and others again that have been left wholly untouched or else only slightly injured. It is heartening to know that, though the blighting of the potato tops retards somewhat the growth

of the tuber, it does not necessarily mean the destruction of the crops, if the cold should moderate in intensity as it has already done. By the way, the method of planting the sweet potato is very much different from that adopted in the case of the common species. Our potato is inserted in the ground whole or cut into several parts according to the number of "eyes" it possesses. In the case of the sweet potato, the Chinese simply cut a shoot off the "shaw" and stick it into the earth that has been prepared for it. Sure enough, before very long young potatoes make an appearance at the end of the plant. The sweet potato is eaten raw in many places, much as we eat an apple, but more generally it is cooked.

To revert back to the cold weather, there are those who are sceptical about the statement that hoar-frost has actually been seen hereabouts. Certainly the morning laggard never will see it, for he has to be up and about early who would do so; it fades away as the first streaks of daylight rise above the north-east hills. There was one man who swore that the tale about the visible frost was all a hoax, and even went as far as to sacrifice the pleasures of a tired man's sleep in order that he might be called up at three o'clock to get ocular proof of this anomalous tropical frost. He was aroused in the dark—the matches always do go amissing on such occasions—but on his way out he stumbled over a sleeping dog and crashed into a corner full of empty soda-water bottles and used language of such a fiery kind that it was no wonder the frost had all disappeared from the grass-plot by the time he got downstairs. The man who had vouched for the frost afterwards took it up as an alternative position that that morning it was a black frost which was prevailing. The controversy lasted right through the morning and a bottle of "Club" But I have it on positive authority that the other morning an early pedestrian found on a smooth dammed bit of one of the streams a veritable sheet of ice; it was so thin, however, as to be comparable to nothing else except Chinese rice-paper: you picked up a piece and it melted away in the hand—

Like a snowflake on the river.

One moment white, then gone forever.

SUGAR CANE.

The farmers are now busy gathering in the sugar cane, which as it is cut is conveyed to one or other of the numerous mills which are to be found in the country, and made into sugar. As in most of their other industries of a like kind, the Chinese adhere to a very primitive method of doing the work, and scorn the modern ways. Two stone rollers not unlike those that are to be seen rolling the street in Hongkong sometimes, are placed on end, close together. These rollers are worked by buffaloes yoked on to a beam. They go round in opposite ways like the rollers of a mangle, and the cane is fed into them by means of a kind of shoot and comes out squeezed dry of all juice, which flows into a pan beneath. This juice afterwards goes through three processes of boiling and purifying in brass cauldrons over a furnace; then it is poured out to harden and is cut into little slabs, which are packed away ready for the market. At these mills they do not refine or granulate the sugar; when ready for despatch it is of a dark brown colour, very rich and sweet almost to nausea.

CULTIVATION.

In the previous paragraph I said the "farmers" were busy getting in the cane. "Farmers" is rather a misnomer, for practically all the agricultural cultivation is done by women. They plough the fields, sow the seed, and garner the crops. In the sea-coast districts this is explained by the fact that most of the men are fishermen. But it is also true of the inland districts, where there is little or nothing doing but agriculture. It cannot be doubted that the development of Hongkong has attracted much of the male population away from some parts of the New Territory; rumours of higher wages and an easier life elsewhere generally have that effect upon most people. So far no indication has appeared of the coming of a time when the land will go out of cultivation like the crofts of Scotland for the lack of agricultural workers. It is a fact, however, that at one time the slopes of the hills of the Kowloon Peninsula were covered by tea plantations; yet tea cultivation is now a lost art, the Hakkas growing only

a wild rank species of the leaf for their own use. All over the countryside you will find traces of the hillside terraces on which the plant was grown.

GAME.

As local sportsmen know to their cost, the shooting season in the New Territory has been a miserable and disappointing failure this year. That earliest of dainties, the snipe, seemed to have entirely forsaken their ancient haunts amidst our valleys. Quail and partridge have been equally scarce in most parts. Only pigeons have been numerous, and even here there has been an obvious falling-off in the number of scale-backs, the heaviest and most valuable kind. Several teal have been got on the water-courses. On the whole, shooting has been far better on the Chinese side of the boundary than on ours. Some big bugs were secured in the Samchun district. With regard to big game, deer have been seen at White Sand Bay near Giudrink-rs, but the country is a difficult one for following them up. That tiger in the gap between Sheungshui and Taipo has not again made his appearance. Two wolves were pursued from a village near Shatankok after playing havoc among the pigs; the depredators escaped, as they made too much speed for their pursuers.

CUSTOMS.

Mr. W. P. M. Whaithe, who has been in charge of Shatankok Custom Stations for some time past, and was formerly at Samchun, has been promoted to be Assistant Examiner at Kiungchau, Hainan. The announcement of Mr. Whaithe's promotion will be heard of with pleasure by his many friends in the New Territory and Hongkong; he is one of the most popular officers in the Kowloon Customs. I understand he will leave for Hainan by one of the Marty steamers from Hongkong about the beginning of next month.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 30th December.

BUILDING ACTIVITY AT CANTON.

Anyone arriving in Canton by the bank reach of the river must be struck by the bunding operations now going on on both banks. It is evident that when all the work now in hand is completed far greater facilities will be available for discharging cargo than at the present time. On the left bank Messrs. Butterfield & Swire are having a bund built—1,700 feet in length. Work on this has, as is well-known, been going on for some time, but it was considerably delayed by the existence of a large rock under water. This obstacle has now been got rid of by Mr. Waters with dynamite, and work on the wharves, which will be five in number, will begin shortly. At these wharves ocean steamers larger than any that now come up will be able to work cargo. On the opposite side of the river, at Pak Hok Tong, the Standard Oil Company are having a bund built. There are at present 100 sand-boats at work dredging. The concession will have a frontage of 1500 ft., and will go back 500. There will be a manager's residence, and several godowns and oil-tanks, so that Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. will have a rival almost within a stone's throw of their own tanks.

At Fong Chuen, which lies just below the railway terminus on the right bank, the merchant Wong Ah Fong is having a bund built which covers a larger area than either of the above. Its frontage alone will be 2,000 feet, and there will be room for a large number of godowns. All these three enterprises have been taken in hand by Mr. Danby.

In all this kind of work there is a great deal of filling-in to be done; fish-ponds and duck ponds are done away with, and breeding-grounds of mosquitoes and other pests removed, so that it may be hailed with satisfaction from the sanitary point of view, as well as from that of trade. The development of trade should increase with greater facilities. At present much delay is caused in the busy season by steamers being unable to enter the harbour, which can only accommodate a dozen ships.

I mentioned some time ago that there was considerable activity in the building trade. I

the list I then gave I must now add a new Chinese Post Office facing the steamer-wharves; additions to the I.M.C. examination shed; additional offices for Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., and a soda-water factory for Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., while the foundation of offices for the Sun Life Assurance Company is being laid. The German Consulate will not be completed for another year, by which time it seems unlikely that there will be any vacant space left on Shamun. The overflow population will have to immigrate to Fati.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 30th December.

SUN AGAIN.

Sun Yat San, alias Sun Man, was well known to most of the people here as one who, it was said, had together with his comrades smuggled arms into Canton with a view to making a disturbance, some seven or eight years ago. It was discovered in time by the customs officials, and the arms and powder were seized and confiscated. After this failure he went to Japan. It is said that he has come back to China and gone to Kwangsi to join the rebels and be one of their chiefs. It is also said that he has sent a challenge to the Viceroy here to fight again, and His Excellency will probably leave Canton again for Kwangsi on the 28th of the Chinese moon, light draught steamers being ordered to be ready to take troops and provisions.

THE EX-NAMHOI.

The trouble between the late Namhoi Magistrate, Pin King-fuk, and the Viceroy is said to have been settled, and the former is appointed *weiquin* to an opium office. The Chinese Government is going to adopt a system something like this. A person who smokes one tael and upwards of opium a day is to be classified as invalid No. 1 on his licence; and whenever he wants to buy opium he has to produce this licence in the opium shop before any opium is sold to him. A person who consumes opium from five to ten mace is to be called invalid No. 2, and under five mace, invalid No. 3. The new tax to be paid to the office upon one tael of prepared opium is nine candareen, and for every licence \$5 per annum.

AGAINST THIEVING.

The Viceroy has adopted quite a new system of government. He told the prefect of Kwangchowfu to order the magistrates of all the districts to issue notifications to the effect that whenever a robbery is committed in a house the next door neighbours must catch the thieves, or failing to do so they must be made to pay for whatever has been stolen, and the value of the property stolen must be estimated by the officials. Any of the neighbours who had caught a thief would be rewarded. Upon receipt of this order the prefect has communicated it to all the magistrates and requested them to issue notifications. This system will lead to something like the following. A neighbour to save himself the trouble of catching his neighbour's thieves and be made to pay for his loss would be glad to open his door, and invite the thieves to go into his house and rob so as to compel his neighbours to pay for his loss. In Saichew, for instance, a whole village composed of two or three hundred houses has of late been attacked and robbed. There being no neighbouring villages, who is going to pay for the loss? Not the officials, you may be sure.

The New York paper, *Japan and America*, has recently been falling foul of Mr. W. S. Gilbert's famous comic opera *The Mikado*. The Japanese Emperor, this journal points out, "is held in reverence by millions of Japanese, who look upon him with the exalted respect with which Russians regard the Metropolitan and Catholics the Pope. To represent in a humorous or ridiculous manner this venerated personage is to rebel and pain any Japanese who might witness the play. It ought also to shock others who are aware of the true character and exalted station of the Mikado." This seems somewhat belated, considering how many years ago the *Mikado* was written—before Japan had taken anything like her present position among the nations, and surely in no country is the humorous sketch taken as a serious representation of life in the land of the Rising Sun.

CORRESPONDENCE.

KWANGSI FAMINE RELIEF.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Canton, 29th December.

SIR,—Your editorial in issue of 24th inst. has just been brought to my attention, and I hasten to respond to your "appeal to the sense of justice of those Americans who shared in the relief work." On December 15th I saw the reports in the *Christian Herald* to which you refer. I was very much astonished that the relief of Kwai Un was credited to the *Herald* fund, and not a little chagrined that portions of a copy of my report to Mr. Fletcher had been used, without my consent, to substantiate said claim. Immediately I wrote to the Editor of the *Christian Herald* as follows:—

"I regret to note that in your reports of the Kwangsi famine relief, the work of the Hongkong committee and of the Canton benevolent societies is wholly ignored. I think it just to say that in all probability the citizens of Hongkong, headed by His Excellency the Governor, did more for the relief of the famine than any other agency."

The photo, from which was taken the plate your editorial refers to, is the work of Rev. McNeur, a British subject. How the *Christian Herald* came into possession of it, I do not know.

At least two American publications give honour to whom honour is due. In one mention is made of Mr. Fletcher as the representative of the Hongkong committee for Kwangsi famine relief; another says "The citizens of Hongkong and foreign residents of Canton subscribed very liberally." Again, "The Chinese benevolent societies of Canton helped with much earnestness."

I beg to assure you, Mr. Editor, of my very deep regret at the gross injustice the *Christian Herald* has done the citizens of Hongkong. Furthermore, let me say for myself as an "American who shared in the relief work" that I shall continue by voice and pen to testify to the warm-hearted generosity of Hongkong's residents as so markedly evidenced in their response to the needs of famine-stricken Kwangsi, and shall hold in highest esteem men like Messrs. Clementi and Fletcher, who left the comforts of civilisation for the hardships of famine relief work, seeking not the glory of men.—Yours, etc.,

H. K. SHUMAKER, M.D.

HONGKONG UNPLEASANTRIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 29th December.

SIR,—In spite of all appearing in the Hongkong Press to the contrary, Hongkong is still a long way from being a "garden of roses." What with sleepless nights caused by rowdies on the lower levels, and by dogs on the hill-side, and what with unpleasant odours prevailing everywhere, you have a lot of work to do still before "clapping your own hands" can be considered justifiable. So strong are the unpleasant odours encountered in the Caine Road district, for instance, that nothing short of Kipling's *City of Dreadful Night* could describe them. To go further into the matter of noises, making investigations as to cause, one readily comes to the conclusion that Hongkong is suffering considerably from the dog-pest. The canine specimens, moreover, are such an absolutely useless set that they are no good for remedying the rat-pest so much talked about. Why keep them? In a certain Far Eastern town I once resided in, the dog-pest became so intolerable that indignant residents, after sleepless nights listening to dismal howling of innumerable curs, clamoured for measures to be taken for their extermination, with the result that the town corporation appointed dog-shooters, men employed going round town with a gun and shooting all "wunks" at large. Needless to say, in a very short time the town was a much more pleasant place to live in. Hongkong would not go far wrong in adopting a similar course. Talking of city smells, it may be noted that there is a veritable pest-hole—one of those stagnant pools which breed

anything from malaria to typhoid—between Happy Valley and Causeway Bay, just off the connecting thoroughfare, Caroline Road. Though, no doubt, the market-gardener upon whose ground this "beautiful pond" stands might object, it is to be sincerely hoped that such a danger to the colony's health be filled in before hot weather sets in. Perhaps Mr. Brown, the Government Analyst, will tell the Sanitary Board what are the ingredients of the very strong fluid therein. With my deepest sympathy, as a fellow in distress.—Yours sincerely,

MARCUS M.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 28th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE.)

SUIT AGAINST AN AMAH.

An interesting point arose in a case in which Chan Ah Kam, an amah, sued another amah, Ah Oi, for the return of \$4 entrusted to the defendant by the plaintiff. Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, for the defendant.

Mr. Slade said the plaintiff entrusted the sum of \$40 to the defendant to take to the country and deliver to the plaintiff's father-in-law. Plaintiff herself took the money round to the place where the defendant was employed and assisted to pack it up together with some money belonging to the defendant. This was put in a stocking which along with other articles was made into a small parcel. The defendant carried this parcel in her hand while a man bore her other luggage in a basket. Subsequently the plaintiff received no intimation of the receipt of the money from her father-in-law, and when defendant returned from the country and did not come to see her the plaintiff went and saw the defendant, who told her that the money and her other luggage in the basket had been stolen at Canton.

The plaintiff having given evidence,

Mr. Grist said that the law on the point was quite clear. The defendant was not a recognised carrier. She carried the money for nothing, and all that was required of her was that she should take the same care of it as of her own property.

His Lordship—She has got to exercise a reasonable care.

Mr. Grist said her word must be taken that robbery was committed and that she lost not only her own but plaintiff's property. If the law were otherwise it would be a hardship to people who lost goods they were carrying for their friends.

The defendant's evidence was to the effect that when she got to Canton a sampan-man got hold of her basket in which she had placed the parcel containing the money, to take it to his boat. Meantime she was looking after a sick friend, and when she got to the side of the steamer the sampan-man had disappeared, with her basket.

Mr. Slade contended that the burden of proof lay on the defendant; she was bound to hand over the money entrusted to her or satisfactorily account for its loss. It was not likely that the woman would allow her most valuable parcel to remain in a basket that was being carried down by a sampan-man.

His Lordship said that with regard to the position of the money he was inclined to think the probabilities were in favour of its being in the basket. It was quite likely that she started away with the money in her hand. She probably put it in her basket for safe custody when she went to sleep on board the steamer. Had she shown a want of proper and reasonable care? He did not think she had. He knew of his own experience that when you get to Canton these sampan fellows shouldered your luggage and were down the ladder as fast as they could go. Defendant was carrying the money without any pay. He did not think there was any evidence before him that there had been a want of reasonable care on her part. He non-suited plaintiff with costs.

The Court adjourned.

Thursday, 31st December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

CHARTER-PARTY CLAIM.

The Hanseatische Dampfer Compagnie sued Messrs. Wo Fat Sing & Co. for \$594.44, being the balance of the hire of the plaintiff's steamer *Emma Luyken* under a charter-party dated 11th March, 1903. Mr. H. G. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiffs. Defendants were absent.

The *Emma Luyken* was chartered by the defendants for \$6,500 per month, and after various payments on account the amount sued for remained outstanding.

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiffs with costs.

CRICKET.

The Cricket League table stands as follows:—

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Points.
A.O.C.	8	7	1	—	21
Civil Service	6	5	—	1	16
Craigengower	7	3	2	2	11
R. L.	5	2	3	—	6
H.M.S. <i>Tamar</i>	5	2	3	—	6
R. A. M. C.	5	1	3	1	4
H.K.C.C. "A"	4	—	4	—	0
Parsees.	4	—	4	—	0

H.K.C.C. PAVILION.

Next week a recommendation will be made to the general committee of the H.K.C.C. by the sub-committee appointed in connection with the new Pavilion scheme, tenders for that scheme having already been received.

CHALLENGE CUP FOR CRAIENGOWER CRICKET CLUB.

Mr. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., late of Hongkong, has offered another trophy in the form of a silver challenge cup to be competed for by the members of the Craigengower Cricket Club on the same conditions as the shield presented by him in 1898 and won outright by the present captain of the Club last season. The cup is to be won twice successively or three times in all, before becoming the property of the player at the top of the batting average in the Club matches (League matches included). Mr. Belilios, who has always taken a keen interest in the affairs of the Club, deserves the thanks of the members for his sportsman like spirit.

LOCAL AND DISTRICT EVENTS 1903.

JANUARY.

- 1st—Taikoo Club Sports at Quarry Bay.—International Time introduced at Shanghai.
- 2nd—Death of Mr. F. O. Edlin at Peak Hospital, Hongkong.—Hongkong Church Missionary Association's annual meeting.
- 3rd—Evacuation of Shanghai completed.
- 6th—S. George's Ball at City Hall, Hongkong.
- 7th—Amoy Race Meeting concludes.
- 9th—British naval officers entertained at Haiphong.
- 12th—River steamer *Kinshan* launched at Kowloon Docks.—Nanking band collapse.
- 13th—Tung Loi Lane collapse enquiry, last of series of enquiries completed at Hongkong.
- 15th—Navy League (Hongkong branch), annual meeting.—Diocesan School prize-giving, Hongkong.
- 19th—New German Club "at home," Hongkong.
- 20th—Hongkong Choral Festival.
- 21st—Samshui tide-waiter fired on and wounded by pirates on s.s. *On Fat*.—Missionary boat attacked at Mo Tse-chang, Szechuen.
- 22nd—Queen's College prize-giving.
- 27th—S. John's Cathedral seatholders' annual meeting.—Hongkong Benevolent Society's meeting.
- 28th—Scare at Canton on Chinese New Year's Eve, followed by many arrests.
- 30th—Hongkong A.D.C. in *His Excellency the Governor*.

FEBRUARY.

- 4th—Pollard's Lilliputians at Hongkong.
- 5th—Red Cross presentation at Government House, Hongkong.

- 10th—Hongkong Jockey Club Race meeting, first day.
- 14th—H. & S. Bank's half yearly meeting, Hongkong.—Off-day, Hongkong Races.
- 17th—Brough Company's season opens in Hongkong.
- 18th—Death of Prince Koma'su of Japan.
- 19th—Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, discussion on the local currency question.
- 20th—Hongkong Rifle Association's annual meeting; amalgamation with Army Rifle Association.
- 21st—Death of Dr. Canton at Naval Hospital, Hongkong.
- 23rd—Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co. debates Provident Fund scheme.
- 25th—Banquet to Chinese Minister to Washington at Hongkong.
- 26th—Annual meeting of City Hall, Hongkong.
- 28th—Hongkong Volunteer Corps, prize meeting.—Hongkong A.D.C. performance at Canton.

MARCH.

- 2nd—Capt. G. C. Anderson lectured on Imperial Defence before Hongkong Odd Volumes.
- 3rd—Ladies' Rifle Association meeting, Hongkong.
- 12th—Export of rice forbidden by Shanghai *taotai*.—New Masonic Hall reading room opened at Hongkong.—Mr. C. Clementi's lecture on Buddhism before Hongkong Odd Volumes.
- 17th—Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals, annual meeting, Hongkong.
- 18th—*Kirkcudbrightshire* case at Hongkong Police Court.
- 20th—Shanghai declares Hongkong plague-infected.—Rev. E. J. Hardy lectured on Marriage before Hongkong Odd Volumes.
- 24th—Meeting at Hongkong Club about the Admiralty Dock question.
- 26th—Deputation to Sir Henry Blake re Admiralty Dock.—New Tung Wa Hospital, Hongkong, opened.—Triple murder on fishing junk outside Hongkong.
- 27th—First meeting of newly constituted Sanitary Board, Hongkong.—R. A. sports, Hongkong.
- 28th—Hongkong Volunteer Corp., annual inspection.—H.M.S. *Pique* left for home.—H.M.S. *Glory* beat H.M.S. *Argonaut* (2-1) in Hongkong Football Shield final.
- 30th—Chinese petition for extension of Sir Henry Blake's governorship forwarded to Government House.
- 31st—Hongkong Colonial Church Council.

APRIL.

- 9th—Signature lists for petition against Admiralty Dock in Hongkong closed.
- 10th—Great powder-magazine explosion at Canton.
- 13th—Hongkong Rifle Association's prize meeting.
- 17th—Important Charter party case decided at Supreme Court, Hongkong.
- 18th—Polo Club gymkhana, Hongkong.
- 23rd—Kwangsi famine relief meeting called by Governor in Hongkong.—S. George's Day celebrated in some ports in China.
- 29th—Execution of traitorous blue-button mandarin at Pakhoi.

MAY.

- 6th—Close of the "*Zajiro* mystery case" at Hongkong.
- 7th—Annual meeting of the Union Church, Hongkong.
- 9th—Fire near Kennedytown Plague Hospital does much damage.—O. C. dinner at Hongkong.
- 10th—Arson in Connaught Road, Hongkong, causes a death.
- 15th—Yung Lu's funeral at Peking.
- 18th—Meeting of property-owners in Board Room, Hongkong, to consider Public Health Bill.
- 19th—Annual Meeting of Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
- 20th—Mr. C. Clementi addresses a meeting on the Kwangsi famine.
- 21st—Gage Street murderer sentenced to death at Hongkong.
- 25th—Empire Day observed as a holiday in Hongkong.
- 28th—Death of H.E. Lo Feng-lu at Foo-chow.—Polo Club Gymkhana, Hongkong.

JUNE.

- 2nd—Mr. H. F. Wyatt lectures before Hongkong Navy League.
 4th—Over 1,000 plague cases to date in Hongkong—Hongkong Sanitary Board discuss "plague and dumping."
 6th—New branch of Tang Wa Hospital opened by Sir Henry Blake.
 8th—Wedding of Capt. Arbuthnot and Miss Blake at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong.
 9th—Board of Revenue at Peking burnt down.
 12th—General Kuropatkin, Russian War Minister, visits Tokyo.
 14th—Arrival in Hongkong of H.E. Shum, new Viceroy of the Two Kwang.
 17th—Suicide of Mr. R. M. Campbell at Shanghai.
 18th—R. P. Moffitt sentenced for embezzlement of \$5,800 at Hongkong—V.R.C. annual meeting.—Manchurian agreement signed by Prince Ching and M. Lessar.
 24th—H.K.V.C. Church Parade; presentation of a South African War medal.
 26th—General Craigh, V.C., leaves Tientsin for home.
 27th—H.E. Viceroy Shum's reception to foreign Consuls at Canton.
 28th—Very heavy rainstorm in Hongkong.

JULY.

- 1st—Raid of 200 bandits on Eho Park palace, Peking.
 2nd—Mr. Detring's award on the Tientsin railway siding dispute published, upholding the British claims.
 4th—U.S. Pacific cable opened to Manila.
 7th—Chinese newspaper *Supao* at Shanghai suppressed.
 8th—Second of two daring daylight robberies from European ladies in Hongkong on two successive days.
 9th—Reply of Secretary of State for the Colonies to Hongkong's petition re Naval Yard site published.—Conflagration at Bangkok; narrow escape of the "Emerald Buddha."
 13th—Marquis Ito appointed President of Japanese Privy Council.—General Sumner, U.S.A., in Hongkong.
 15th—*Supao* sedition case commenced at Shanghai.
 16th—Volunteer Promenade Concert at Hongkong.
 18th—Two revolutionaries arrested in Peking.
 21st—Suicide of Mr. Hector Sampson at Shanghai.
 22nd—Inspector McEwen acquitted of bribery at Hongkong.
 23rd—Foundation Stone of Alice Maternity Hospital, Hongkong, laid.
 25th—Presentation of S. African war medals to Sherwood Foresters at Hongkong.
 26th—Arrival of H. M. S. *Vengeance* at Hongkong for a 3 years' commission.—Great flood at Chefoo; about 1,000 deaths.
 28th—Anglo-Chinese Commercial Treaty ratified at Peking.—Requiem mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Hongkong, for Pope Leo XIII.
 31st—Animated discussion in Hongkong Legislative Council on the Waterworks Consolidation Ordinance.—Departure of Captain and Mrs. Arbuthnot from Hongkong.—Official murder of Shen Ke wei at Peking.

AUGUST.

- 1st—Polo Club gymkhana in Happy Valley, Hongkong.
 3rd—H. E. Sir Henry Blake hands back to Sanitary Board experimental block of tenement houses.
 4th—Italian Convent's prize-giving.
 6th—Arrival in Hongkong of Sir E. Satow on his way back to Peking from England.
 7th—Sir E. Satow meets Committee of Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
 10th—British prohibition of arms import into China withdrawn.
 12th—Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., elected to Legislative Council by Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.—Russian Viceroyalty of the Far East created.
 15th—Half-yearly meeting of H. & S. Bank at Hongkong.
 17th—C.P.R. s.s. *Empress of India* and Chinese cruiser *Wong Tai* in collision near Swatow; *Wong Tai* sunk.
 21st—Sir E. Satow returns to Peking.
 25th—Sir Henry Blake addresses Hongkong Sanitary Board on the plague experiment in

Second and Third Streets—Preliminary meeting of Sanitary Institute branch in Hongkong.

- 27th—Arrival in Hongkong of Admiral Curzon Howe.
 28th—Hongkong S. P. C. A. founded.

SEPTEMBER.

- 1st—Sir Henry Blake's appointment to Ceylon announced.
 3rd—Attempted murder of a chair-coolie by a German on the Peak, Hongkong.
 5th—Hongkong declares Shanghai an infected port (cholera).
 7th—Hongkong Philharmonic Society revived.
 9th—Major Sir Matthew Nathan's appointment to Hongkong governorship announced.
 15th—Gagging of and robbery from Miss Bateman in Belilios Terrace, Hongkong.—V.R.C. Aquatic Sports.
 16th—Departure from Hongkong of Major-General Gascoigne for home.
 18th—Departure from Hongkong of Commander Murray Rumsey for home.
 21st—Sentence in Peak shooting case, Hongkong.
 22nd—H.E. Yang Chu, Chinese Minister to Japan, in Hongkong.—Japanese Cabinet reconstituted.
 25th—H.K.F.C. annual meeting.
 26th—Incipient ricksha strike at Hongkong suppressed.
 27th—Return of Viceroy Shum from Kwangai to Canton.
 28th—H.K.C.C. annual meeting.
 29th—Annual meeting of Hongkong S. Andrew's Society.

OCTOBER.

- 3rd—Import of British and Mexican dollars into Singapore prohibited.
 6th—Hongkong branch of Sanitary Institute formed.—Remarkable piracy by U.S. constabulary officers in Mindanao, P.I.
 7th—Hongkong Interport cricket team left for Shanghai.
 8th—U.S.-Chinese Commercial treaty signed at Shanghai.—Manchuria not evacuated by Russia.
 9th—Japan-Chinese Commercial treaty signed at Shanghai.
 12th—Governor Sir Frank Swettenham left Singapore.
 13th—Explosion plot scare at British Legation, Peking.
 15th—Hongkong beat Shanghai at cricket in Shanghai.
 16th—Death from cholera of Rev. H. C. Hodges at Shanghai.
 17—Ladies' Benevolent Society Concert at Hongkong.
 23rd—H.K.V.C. camp commenced.
 24th—Ministering Children's League bazaar at Hongkong.
 25th—War scare at Port Arthur.
 28th—Heavy gale in South China seas; many lives lost near Swatow.
 30th—Grand stand at Hankow burnt down.

NOVEMBER.

- 3rd—Shanghai Autumn Races began.
 7th—Victoria Memorial Hospital, Hongkong, opened.
 8th—Fatal shooting accident in New Territory, Kowloon.
 9th—King's Birthday holiday in Hongkong; ball at Government House.—Turkish Consul at Singapore killed in gharry accident.
 11th—Hongkong fired off in Interport Rifle Match.
 12th—New Hongkong Law Courts foundation-stone laid.—Great Russian naval review at Port Arthur.
 14th—Hongkong A.D.C. in *Lord & Lady Algy*.—Presentation to Sir Henry Blake by Chinese Street Committee.—Hongkong Gun Club championship.
 15th—Opening of the Canton-Fatshan railway line.
 19th—Farewell address of Sir Henry Blake to Legislative Council.—Chinese presentation to Lady Blake.
 20th—Hongkong Nursing Institute, annual meeting.
 21st—Departure of H.E. Sir Henry Blake from Hongkong for Colombo; address from the community; Hon. F. H. May sworn in.
 23rd—Important Land Court appeal case decision in Hongkong Supreme Court.
 25th—Japanese Emperor's luncheon to Admiral Bridge at Tokyo.

- 26th—Prince Adalbert of Germany in Hongkong.
 28th—Empress Dowager's 68th birthday; entertainment at Canton.
 30th—S. Andrew's Ball at Hongkong.

DECEMBER.

- 5th—Yuan Shi-kai appointed commander-in-chief of all forces in the Chinese Empire.
 7th—Major-General Villiers Hutton, new G.O.C., arrives in Hongkong.
 8th—Foochow Races, first day.
 9th—Charity Bazaar in City Hall, Hongkong.
 10th—Japanese Diet's session opened; practical vote of censure on the Ministry.—Russia's reply to Japanese note wired to Japan.
 11th—Hongkong A.D.C. in *The Importance of being Earnest*.
 13th—Riot on the railway near Fatshan.
 14th—Landslip on Hankow bank.—Sir F. Swettenham's retirement announced at Singapore.
 16th—Victoria Regatta, first day.—*Supao* case at Shanghai closed.
 18th—Canton Regatta, first day.
 21st—Commodore Robinsch, Hongkong, promoted Rear-Admiral.
 23rd—V. R. C. Regatta dinner.
 25th—H.K.C.C. v. United Services at Hongkong.
 26th—Charity bazaar in San Francisco gardens, Macao.
 27th—Ex-Governor Taft, U.S. Secretary of War, passed through Hongkong from Manila.
 28th—Important Cabinet Council at Tokyo to decide on financial questions in case of war.
 29th—*Empress of India* collision case at Shanghai given against the *Empress*.

THE "TANSAN" TRADE MARK CASE AT SINGAPORE.

In the course of his judgment in the case of Clifford Wilkinson v. McAlister & Co. at Singapore, Sir Lionel Cox, the Chief Justice, said the question to be decided was whether plaintiff was entitled in Singapore to the exclusive use of the word "tansan" in connection with a mineral water imported by him from Japan. Plaintiff was the owner of a spring at a place called Takaraduka in the vicinity of Kobe, the water of which he has sold since 1890. He first used the label produced (and marked F) describing the water simply as a mineral water. Later, in consequence of representations regarding the name, he altered the label, and instead of "Takaraduka mineral water" he had printed in 1893 on which the word "tansan" in white on a blue ground was printed across the other writing. Plaintiff stated that he did not know till some five years later the meaning of the word "tansan," which he states is a scientific term not in common use. From that time he advertised his water as tansan, and to a large extent since 1895 he had spent between \$300 and \$1,000 a month in advertisements. One striking mode of advertising was referred to by a witness who had spent some time in Japan, and who told the Court that on the slope of a mountain at Meiji, the word "tansan" was written so large that it could be read by ships at sea off the coast. He registered his label in Japan in 1897, in America in 1900, and in Java, India, and Australia. The water was first introduced into Singapore under the name "tansan" in 1898, and in 1897 the defendants became agents. The water was ordered, invoiced, advertised and sold under the name "tansan." In April, 1901, the plaintiff wrote to defendants complaining that the sales had not increased and informing them that he had appointed the Borneo Company as agents. The Borneo Company seem in fact to have acted in this capacity in January of the year, and Mr. F. Hilton says that the sales have been considerable, and that he had not heard of any other water being sold under the same name, till Mr. Stephens of McAlister's notified him of their intention to run a rival water. Plaintiff also heard that Messrs. Hasegawa and Co. were shipping "Funagoya tansan" to Singapore, and instructed his agents to take proceedings, and eventually the suit was started towards the end of 1901. On these facts, which he, the Judge, could not take otherwise than as proved, plaintiff sought an injunction entitling him to restrain defendant from using the word

"tansan" or any word in which it was a part, and defendant's reply was that the word was a common word in Japanese, used to denote a mineral water collected from a carbonic acid spring. It was clear that in trade mark law the mark must be distinctive, and if plaintiff had taken the name simply as descriptive of mineral water his claim could not be supported, unless it had acquired a secondary meaning, and become associated with his name. His Lordship reviewed the evidence and said he thought from the evidence produced that the word "tansan" had come to mean in Singapore Wilkinson's mineral water; it could mean nothing else because there was no other water of the kind on the market until the defendant brought in the "Funagoya tansan." Whilst many people might be ignorant of the plaintiff's personal name, yet people who ordered "tansan," though not knowing Wilkinson's name, wanted the "tansan" to which they had been accustomed, and that was no doubt plaintiff's mineral water. It was also contended that the defendant's label was so different from the plaintiff's that they could not be mistaken. There was no doubt that anyone looking at the bottles could not help distinguishing them, but that was not sufficient; the same defence was set up in the "Club Soda" case, and was rejected. The strong case in favour of plaintiff on this point was that in which the Apollinaris Company were concerned (33 Law Times 242). With regard to the other contention of the defendant, the question did not arise in Singapore, because there was no evidence of any mineral water under the name "tansan" having been imported here by any other than the plaintiff and defendants since 1901. The injunction sought must be granted. Defendants must bear the plaintiff's costs, and the parties would be heard again on the question of damages.

IN PRISON AT PORT ARTHUR.

ADVENTURES OF THREE JAPANESE.

The *Japan Times* translates some experiences of the Japanese merchants who were recently imprisoned at Port Arthur by the Russians, which were published in the *Jiji* and the *Chugai Shogyo*. Mr. Hajime Yamana, one of the party, makes the following statement:—

Mr. Manichi Takenouchi and I, both of the Kanegafuchi Cotton Mill, and Mr. Kokichi Tsuji, of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, left Newchwang for the interior of Manchuria at the beginning of September for the purpose of ascertaining what kind of cotton yarns the Chinese would take and what manner of transactions they would prefer. War rumours were in the air, and it was considered to be dangerous to venture far inland. We therefore visited Liaoyang, Moukden, Tieling, etc., and their outlying districts.

The arrest took place at Haiping on the morning of the 23rd September. We were then waiting for a train in order to go to Kaiping. Mr. Takenouchi was walking beyond the railway track, when some Russian soldiers suddenly arrested him, on suspicion of his having entered something into his note-book. Mr. Tsuji and I were also arrested on account of our being in his company. We were then brought before the commander of the Russian garrison, who asked us the purpose and destination of our journey and searched our clothes and baggage. Finally it was announced that examination was not completed, and a little past midnight we were put on board a train in custody of several soldiers. For fifteen hours we were left without food.

We were told that our destination was Tashihchiao, but the train was running northward, instead of to the south. There was a Japanese in the carriage, and not suspecting that we were in custody, he asked us our destination. I was impatient to let him know that we were in the clutches of the Russian military authorities, and was going to answer when our guards became angry, struck the Japanese traveller, and finally forced him out of the carriage.

Under such conditions it was vain to hope for communication with our countrymen, even if we were lucky enough to meet one of them. So I bribed the Russian soldiers and bought beer for them, with the result that their manner

greatly softened and they began to talk with us. At a station called Kuanchengtsze, I desecrated a Japanese on the platform, and santered out from the carriage. As a Russian soldier of course followed me, I gave him some money. But as it was out of the question to address the Japanese openly, I drew him to a cigarette stall, and while buying cigarettes, asked him to inform the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha at Newchwang of our arrest.

The train stopped at Harbin on the 25th, at 2 p.m., when I was able to send a Japanese for Mr. Kawai, of the Mitsui Bussan office at Dalny, who was then staying at Harbin. He came to the station, saw us, talked to the Russian soldiers, and said to us: Be at ease I will do something."

We were then conveyed to the Russian barracks at Harbin, where we were imprisoned for about 24 hours without any court proceedings. On the 26th, at 2 p.m., we were again put in a train bound for Port Arthur. A Russian officer and four soldiers guarded us.

Meanwhile the Mitsui Bussan's office at Dalny, receiving a telegram from Mr. Kawai, was deeply anxious about our fate, and sent one of its officials, Mr. Fujioka, to the station, where there is a junction, the name of which I have forgotten. Mr. Fujioka was awaiting us, and on our arrival there he came into our train. We saw each other, but were not able to converse. He remained with us until we arrived at Port Arthur on the 28th, at 4 p.m., when we were conveyed in a carriage to the General Staff Office. En route, however, Mr. Fujioka lost track of us, having been unable to keep near for fear that the Russians should suspect his purpose.

We were kept at the Staff Office for three or four hours, but the Russians did not examine us. By and bye, we were cast separately into the Russian prison, where we remained for the subsequent 31 days without trial.

There is a Japanese firm called the Yoshida Shosen at Port Arthur. It is purveyor to the Russian army and has business connections with the Mitsui Bussan. Mr. Fujioka, troubled at losing track of us, was consulting with the people of the firm, when a Russian soldier appeared and asked if they could prepare Japanese food for three persons. The Japanese rightly conjectured that the food was for us, and consented to supply it. This arrangement enabled them to learn our fate and ourselves to know that the Yoshida firm was still unmolested at Port Arthur, and that the world was still at peace. What we apprehended most was war, in the event of which we should have been butchered. On the 27th October, we were tried for the first time by the court martial, Mr. Hino, representative of the Japanese at Port Arthur, interpreting. The chief procurator and the chief of a police station, who was a major, took down the description of the route we had travelled, the object of the journey, etc., and made us sign affidavits. The next day, a soldier tossed us our baggage and announced that we might go. We were all very weak, and therefore lodged a night at the Yoshida firm, and returned to Newchwang by the *Nantsu Maru*. We spent 31 days in the prison, besides 5 days in travelling in Russian custody.

The prison at Port Arthur is enclosed by high walls and contains 17 or 18 cells. Each cell is 6 feet wide and 9 feet long; the door consists of tremendously thick boards; the walls are of brick one foot in thickness, and the floor is made of cement. The cell has only one window of about 3 feet square, which has a lattice of iron bars, and double panes of thick glass beyond the lattice. The door has also a hole of about five inches square, through which food is admitted. The hole is about 5 feet 5 inches above the floor. The furniture of the cell consists of an iron bed, straw matting two inches thick, and a table. Each cell is guarded by a soldier, and there are always about 50 more on duty in the courtyard. Their vigilance is something beyond belief. They would never permit us to sleep for two consecutive hours. Every time they were relieved, they would knock at the door with their swords or kick it until we responded.

The monotony of the prison life was unparalleled. We had nothing to read or to do. For 31 days we had to brood over our fate. A source of unspeakable misery was the thinness of our clothes. I was attired in a summer suit of alpaca and white trousers, and

had nothing with which to keep myself warm except a thin blanket, and it was snowing when we were released. The cold seemed to reach the marrow, and I thought I should be frozen to death before long. Our guards were greedy beyond description. Without bribes, they would do nothing for us. Some of them would thrust their hands into our pockets and ask us in bad Chinese if there was any money in them. If we answered in the affirmative, they would press us for a tip. Often enough they took money to buy us food and then failed to do so. In this manner prison life cost me some 60 yen in the shape of bribes to the Russian soldiers, to say nothing of a hundred other losses.

HONGKONG.

The Royal Artillery propose to give a dance on the 19th January next.

The date of the closing of entries for the forthcoming Races has been postponed from the 9th to the 16th prox.

Wild dogs are reported to be numerous in the neighbourhood of Lokmachow, near Lantin Police Station. They come down from the hills at night and devastate the hen-roosts.

A change has occurred at the head of S. Joseph's College, Hongkong. Brother Francis having gone to Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S., to found a new branch, Brother Joshua has been appointed to his post, an advancement on which his numerous friends in the Colony will congratulate him. Though 70 years of age, and though he has been 56 years in the East, Brother Joshua would pass for 60 years old anywhere.

There has just been issued from the office of the *Hongkong Daily Press* the *Directory of Protestant Missionaries in China, Japan, and Corea for the year 1904*. All the various missions are put under their respective headings, showing the members of them, and in addition there is an alphabetical list of the name, so that reference is easy. The *Directory* is enclosed in blue paper covers; it will be incorporated in the *Daily Press Chronicle and Directory* when that is ready for publication.

H.M.S. *Centurion* arrived here on Wednesday. About this old friend on the China Station "Paratus" writes in the *Naval and Military Record*:—"The battleship *Centurion* is proud of herself. She has a reputation to keep up, but she is not content with that; she has started on her third commission with a firm determination to enhance her reputation." We look for a hearty welcome from the fleet in the Far East and are confident that we shall be found ready and willing to undertake anything that we may be called upon to do, and do it in a way that will prove a credit to the service and to our ship." The welcome is certainly here.

On Sunday night another sudden death took place, the deceased being a British sailor, named John Wilson, who had lately been discharged from the British sailing vessel *Glen Doon*. It appears that the man went to the Sailors' Home, at West Point, on the 5th ult., and had been staying there since, drinking heavily meanwhile. On Saturday night last he returned to the Home about 10 o'clock, utterly inebriated, and was seen to bed by the watchman. The next morning, between 5 and 6 o'clock, he was found dead in his bed. A post-mortem held later in the day by Dr. Hunter, at the mortuary, revealed the fact that the cause of death was alcoholism. Deceased was 42 years of age, and believed to be unmarried.

On entering his shop on the morning of the 17th ult. Li Chen Cheong, a large dealer in miscellaneous goods, opened his safe to obtain some money to meet some payments he had to make, when he discovered that the safe had been opened, and \$4,500 extracted. Information was immediately given to the police, and detectives were put on the case, when, as a result of their investigations, one Li Chap Chung, a clerk in the employ of Li Chen Cheong, and who sleeps in the shop, was found in possession of a key that opens the safe. In consequence of this discovery Li Chap Chung was arrested, and yesterday placed before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, at the Magistracy, when after evidence of the arrest had been taken, the case was remanded, on the application of Mr. Holmes, solicitor, who has been retained in the case for the defence.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 27th December, were 154 non-Chinese and 42 Chinese to the former, and 34 non-Chinese and 1,641 Chinese to the latter institution.

H.E. Mr. May, with his usual sporting instincts and generosity, has presented the Polo Club with a challenge trophy to replace the R.A. one, won outright by the Civilians, and to be played for by representative teams from the various corps in the Colony.

Seven more racers arrived from Shanghai by the s.s. *Kwangtuh*—two Derby griffins for Mr. Craig, two old ponies (*Algerine* and *Vancouver*, who won the S. Leger in record time at Shanghai) for Mr. Craig, one waler (*Dandy*) for Mr. Grey, and two China ponies, *Primo* and another.

It may be of interest to the gentleman who are responsible for the project of running a turbine steamer between here and Canton to know that the new turbine passenger steamer *Brighton* established a record recently when she succeeded in passing the pierhead at Dieppe 2hrs. 59mins. after leaving Newhaven piers, a distance of sixty-four knots, or seventy-five miles.

It has often been observed by visitors to the New Territory that the verdant-looking hillsides which meet the eye at every turn are barren of both stock and cultivated growth. Why not stock the place with sheep? It is hardly possible that Southdowns or Cheviots would stand the climate, but Australian sheep should be able to do so, accustomed as they are to arid plains and torrential rainfalls. The Government's acknowledged policy is to develop the country. Surely the raising of stock would be a good thing to start experimenting upon? In the same way, suggestions have been made for the introduction of rabbits into the New Territory. The objection is always made that snakes destroy them, but it is also said that the snakes are two-legged. However that may be a trial in the way of introducing rabbits into the territory would not be far amiss. The rodents could not do any damage to the young crops in the valleys unless they developed the capability of swimming among the flooded paddy-fields.

Though money has been somewhat tight of late, business on the whole is good. The bountiful rice-harvest, too, has greatly added to general prosperity. Cattle continue to arrive in a very healthy condition from Kwangtung and Kwangsi pastures, and Canton industries for the greater part are in a flourishing condition. Cracker-factories are particularly busy preparing for the Chinese New Year, and so, indeed, are the various confectioners. The New Year is still too far distant, though, for general preparations. A notable illustration of Chinese thrift has just come to light: the wives of a very wealthy resident at Canton—a family just rolling in money, so to speak—being employed daily making large quantities of moon-cakes, which are hawked on the streets and sold at cut-throat prices. The sale of sweet-smelling jasmine from the same gentleman's front garden, also, is said not only to pay the gardeners' wages, but yield a considerable income.

The water supply on the higher levels is so bad at present that a correspondent affirms it as a fact that he dreams of nights that he has had a bath, only to wake up to disappointment and a dry tap. Even on the low levels the supply is not good at times, water being unobtainable during the hours when the mains are supposed to be turned on. While householders can get barely enough for cooking purposes it is rather anomalous that builders can get an unlimited supply for the purpose of soaking their bricks. Any day one can see the workmen on the new buildings in the centre of the town lavishly throwing water by a hosepipe over heaps of bricks lying on the ground. Certainly they must have fresh water for this purpose, but there are more economical ways of soaking bricks than by deluging them with a hose-pipe, in which case about 90 per cent. of the water goes not into the bricks but into the ground. A minimum of water-consumption would be reached were builders to soak the bricks in tubs or barrels. During the water famines of previous years the supply was cut off from buildings altogether, so that builders would only be serving their own interests by exercising economy in this direction.

The Justices of the Peace assembled on the 29th ult. at 2.15 o'clock, at the Magistracy, to consider the application of James D. M. Cameron for the transfer of his Publican's Licence to sell liquors on the premises known as the Occidental Hotel, Nos. 40 to 44, Elgin Road, Kowloon, to one Rudolf Matthaey. The applicant was represented by Mr. Grist, of the firm of Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors. The justices present were Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, presiding, Captain Lyons, C. S. P., and Messrs. J. H. Kemp and C. A. D. Melbourne. There being no police or other objections to the transfer applied for, the application was granted unanimously. There being no other business before the meeting the sessions were then adjourned.

A daring case of piracy is reported as having occurred in Chinese waters, two days' sail from Swatow. The facts appear to be as follows. On or about the 8th ult. a junk laden with porcelain-ware for two firms in Hongkong set sail from Swatow. Two days later, on the 10th ult., the junk in question was overtaken and boarded by pirates, and all but a small portion of the said cargo was seized and transferred to the pirates' boat, which, immediately after, set sail and disappeared. The junk then continued on its voyage to Hongkong, where the remainder of the porcelain was handed over to the owners, and a report of the piracy made to the police, a notice being also sent to the authorities at Swatow. On the 26th ult. Inspector McNab arrested one Sui Ching Mo, a shopkeeper in Bonham Strand, for being in possession of about \$160 worth of what is suspected to be a portion of the pirated property. On the 28th December the prisoner was placed before Mr. J. H. Kemp, Acting Police Magistrate, at the Magistracy, when, after evidence of the arrest had been taken, the case was adjourned until Monday, the 4th inst. Mr. P. W. Goldring, of the firm of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings, solicitors, has been retained for the prosecution, while Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, is engaged for the defence.

The Club Lusitano, one of the pioneer clubs of the Colony, is undergoing extensive improvements, which, necessitating a heavy outlay, must indicate prosperity. The club, ever since the days of Governor Coelho d'Amaral of Macao, who laid the foundation stone of the building, has always been of good standing. Perhaps, though, it was never so flourishing financially as at the present time. A few years ago, the building covered more ground than it does now, a portion of the property—the theatre—being sold when the concern was turned into a limited company. Under the new arrangements there are two billiard-rooms, one on either hand as one enters the hall; two tables are in each room. At the back on the right is the library, and on the left the bar. The whole flooring downstairs has just been tiled in handsome design, replacing planking; up-stairs, on the first floor, is a spacious ball-room, the windows facing Shelley Street. A noteworthy feature here is a large oil painting of the King of Portugal. Other decorations, though simple in themselves, are displayed with great taste. By erecting a stage in the ball-room it becomes a good hall for amateur theatricals; ordinarily the chamber is used as a sitting-room. The dining-room, also on the first floor, looks on to Elgin Terrace; there is a green-room on the opposite side, also to the rear of the ball-room. Second and third floors are used for members' bed-rooms. From a verandah, opening on to the third floor, one gets a very fair view of the harbour.

The Allahabad *Pioneer's* London correspondent telegraphs that a diplomatist who was interviewed by the *Paris Eclair*, but whose name was withheld, says that Lord Curzon's tour in the Persian Gulf and the Tibet expedition are designed to take advantage of Russia's preoccupation in Manchuria. England wishes to make Eastern Arabia a dependency of India, for which reason Persia looked unfavourably on the Viceregal tour. England long intended to dispute with Russia certain vastly important regions of Tibet. She shrinks from no sacrifice and will some day announce her supremacy as an accomplished fact!

MISCELLANEOUS.

In the case against Mr. Le Prevost, charged with fraud in connection with the silk business of Messrs Cornes & Co., Yokohama, the defendant has been acquitted.

A Shanghai record in price was reached at a sale of Chinese curios at the rooms of the Great Eastern Dispensary last Thursday last when Messrs. L. Moore & Co. knocked down two present Manchu Dynasty vases (reign of Yung Ching 1723/36) for Tls. 575 and a bronze bowl (Ming dynasty 11th and 12th century A.D.) for Tls. 200.

Chinese burglars appear to be getting very much up-to-date in Shanghai. On the night of the 19th inst. a member of that fraternity was seen stealthily entering a house on the Weihai-wei Road, by a Sikh policeman, and on the latter's attempting to arrest the man, the burglar drew a revolver and fired at him as well as at another Sikh constable, who came running up in response to his comrade's whistle. The first man was hit on the doubled part of his belt, and not much hurt, the second receiving a flesh-wound in the thigh. The arrest of this man led to that of the whole gang that raided Shanghai last winter, and for whose apprehension a reward of \$500 had been offered. A large quantity of stolen property was also recovered from their houses.

It is always interesting to compare other people's idea about our Government with our own. We read in the *Manila Sunday Sun*:—"The Senate favours the treaty recently signed by the Chinese Government which concedes special privileges to American traders in the Celestial Empire. Only a few more months of inactivity on the part of the State Department and any commercial treaty with China will be absolutely worthless if the Powers in favour of dismemberment are allowed to proceed as Russia has in Manchuria. France in the south is watching the Kwangsi rebellion, waiting to pounce upon that unprotected province at the slightest pretext, while the Germans and English are both playing a desperate game to obtain control of the Yangtze valley." Yet we cannot see a trace of activity, much less "desperate play," on the part of our Government in the Yangtze region. The long sleep, as far as we are able to judge out here, continues as sound as ever.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 17th December, 1903.—Re-reels.—Are now becoming scarce and there are probably not another 200 bales to come forward this season. Sales amount to 10 bales in all, at \$775/760 for Nos. 1 & 2, Blue Ticket, and \$745 for Nos. 1 & 2, White Ticket. Filatures.—The movement reported in our last rapidly developed into a general good enquiry, and over 3,000 bales were taken from stock on the basis of, or at slightly under, the quotations of that date. Values jumped \$40/50 per picul and have since remained firm, although little subsequent business has been done at the advance. Last sales made are: Wing Chong Sing 11/13 at \$985, King Seng 11/13, 13/15, at \$960, Yu Loong Hing 10/12 at \$910, Shun Kee 10/12, 11/13 at \$905/885. The above have been paid for 5th and 6th crop silk. The bulk of the ready stock is 3rd and 8th crop, "Native" filatures are very strong at the advance and have given rise to no fresh business that we know of. Short-reels.—Considerable transactions have also taken place in these at rather better prices. We quote as last paid. \$912/910 for Min King Lon, Hau King Lon, Kwong Shun Ching, \$890 for Ling Chai, Chung Sun Hang, \$852/855 for Kwong Lun Hing. Waste Silk.—Steam has hardened in sympathy with silk and rules strong. Buyers however seem unwilling to respond and business is difficult. Other sorts are in only small supply and are practically nominal.

RICE.

HONGKONG 31st December.—The prices are further advancing, holders being firm.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.20 to \$3.25
" Round, Good quality	4.90 to 4.95
" Long	5.10 to 5.15
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.80 to 3.85
" Garden, No. 1	4.50 to 4.55
" White, ...	5.00 to 5.05
" Fine Cargo	5.50 to 5.55

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 31st December.—There is no change in the position of the market, and the prices are the same as when last reported.

Shikloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.65 to \$8.70	pcis.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.60 to 7.65	"
Do. " No. 1, Brown.....	6.05 to 6.10	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.90 to 5.95	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.55 to 8.60	"
Do. " 2, White.....	7.45 to 7.50	"
Do. " No. 1, Brown.....	4.95 to 5.00	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.80 to 5.85	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.90 to 12.95	"
Shikloong ".....	10.75 to 10.8	"

OPIUM.

Quotations are:—Allowance	31st December.—	net. to 1 catty.
Malwa New.....	\$960	to \$980 per picul.
Malwa Old.....	\$1,000	to \$1,020 do.
Malwa Older.....	\$1,040	to \$1,060 do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1,080	to \$1,100 do.
Persian fine quality.....	\$840	to — do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$850	to — do.
Patna New.....	\$1,245	to — per chest.
Patna Old.....	—	to — do.
Benares New.....	\$1,245	to — do.
Benares Old.....	—	to — do.

HONGKONG, 30th December.

The movements in the various Opium markets during the past fortnight have been as follows:—

Stocks as per circular of	Malwa, Patna, Benares, Persian.			
19th ult. 1903.	1,818	1,336	478	2,051
Dec. 15th Imports per Coromandel (457)	—	—	—	381
" 23rd " " " " " " "	516	435	—	—
" 30th " " " " " " "	270	180	—	—
Less Exports to Shanghai	1,775	2,113	1,113	2,332
Less Exports to East, and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight.	168	225	150	—
Estimated Stocks this day	1,394	1,811	735	2,140

Bengal.—An exceptional rise in prices has taken place, due to the fact that stocks, and bargains in Chinese hands, are very moderate, and also to the ready response from Calcutta to the rise here. Patna and Benares are quoted at \$1,250.

Malwa.—The market is firm at the following prices:—

New.....	\$960/980
2-3 years old.....	\$1,000/1,020
4-5 " ".....	\$1,040/1,060
Oldest.....	\$1,080

Persian.—The Market is firm at \$850 for good bricks and cones.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 31st December:—Nothing done owing to high rates. Stock about 850 bales.

Bombay.....	27.00 to 30.00	picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon }.....	29.00 to 32.50	"
and Dacca.....	—	"
Shanghai and Japanese, 30.0 to 32.00	—	"
Tungchow and Ningpo, 30.00 to 32.00	—	"

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong Dec. 30th says:—Nothing of interest has occurred in this market during the past fortnight. The demand for twist has dwindled into a minimum, only a few small parcels for early requirements being reported sold at or about previous rates, and it now looks as if importers would have to make up their minds to carry their stock until the winter demand comes round, or even later, when the China New Year Holidays are well over. Meanwhile the goods in Native hands are more than sufficient to carry them over this term. The position of the market may be considered fairly strong, and considering the condition of our large neighbouring market of Shanghai, as well as Bombay, a much bolder front has been assumed, and for the present no decline in rates is likely to be submitted to.

Local Manufacture.—No business has been reported.

Japanese Yarn.—The sale of a small parcel of 25 bales Seta No. 20s at \$136, has been reported. Close strong.

Raw Cotton.—Rates are prohibitive, and the fluctuations on the other side in Indian descriptions are not at all reflected in this market, consequently the market is at a standstill. An advance of \$1 in Ningpo has been established, but no sales have transpired. Stock: Indian about 200. Quotations are Indian \$29 to \$32 and Chinese \$30 to \$34.

Exchange on India has fluctuated wildly and closes to-day at Rs. 139 for T/T and Rs. 129 for Post on Shanghai 7 1/2 and on Yokohama 85 1/2.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended 18th instant, viz:—

Indian.—Business greatly restricted by higher prices now asked for by holders who have succeeded in establishing an advance of one to two Taels. Total sales 2,359 bales comprising 310 bales No. 13s, 275 bales No. 12s, 275 bales No. 14s, 887 bales No. 16s and 412 bales No. 20s. Estimated unsold stock 30,000 bales.

Japanese.—Market very strong, prices up 4 to 5 Taels. Sales about 3,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 89 1/2 to 95 1/2 for No. 16s and Tls. 95 to 102 for No. 20.

Local.—More done at slightly higher figures than last mail; sales amounting to 6,000 bales at Tls. 88 1/2 for 10s, Tls. 89 to 90 1/2 for 12s, Tls. 93 to 97 1/2 for 16s, market closing strong.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 20th Nov.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00

Reported sales 1,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.50 to 2.80
8.4 lbs.	3.50 to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.	4.30 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.90 to 3.25
58 to 60 "	3.50 to 4.00
64 to 66 "	4.25 to 5.75
Fine	6.00 to 8.50
Book-folds	5.00 to 8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.85 to 1.75
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.30 to 2.80
7lbs. (32 ")	2.50 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	2.50 to 3.00
7lbs. (32 ")	3.10 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	3.30 to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/2 to 14 lbs.	4.75 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 8 lbs.	1.80 to 4.00
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BROCADES.

Dyed to —	— to —
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DAMASKS.

Chintzes—Assorted per yard	0.12 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.28 to 0.47
Velveteens—18 in.	0.19 to 0.23

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk per dozen	0.30 to 3.00
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WOOLLENS.

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops per yard	0.77 1/2 to 2.25
German to —	— to —
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths per piece	1.25 to 3.50

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.95 to 9.20
Assorted 7.10 to 9.45	—
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.50 to 33.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches }.....	12.50 to 22.50
Assorted }	—
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. per pair	0.60 to 0.80
Fine quality 1.25 to 1.85	—

METALS.

Iron—Nail Rod per picul	4.50 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.50 to —
Swedish Bar 4.55 to —	—
Small Round Rod 4.75 to —	—
Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in. 6.50 to —	—
Wire, 16/25 oz. 9.80 to —	—
Wire Rope, Old 3.00 to —	—

METALS.

Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop per picul	9.25 to —
Australian 9.25 to —	—
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Composition Nails.....	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	8.50 to —
Tin.....	89.00 to —

Tin-Plates per box.	7.40 to —
Steel 1/2 to 1 per cwt. cases	6.30 to —

SUNDRIES.

Quicksilver per picul	170.00 to —
Window Glass per box	4.20 to —

The following are the latest quotations from Yokohama:—

IMPORTS.

Yarns.—The market remains unchanged. Shirtings.—The recent cotton panic has made buyers anxious to secure any available stocks at prices based upon purchase cost. Numerous offers for Whites are all more or less impracticable. Fancy Cottons and Woollens.—Market remains in a lethargic state, with no disposition to buy. Stocks in dealers' hands appear to be ample for requirements. Metals.—Fair sales are reported in Mild Steel Bars and Sheets. Kerosene.—Market very active, and prices continue firm. Sugar.—Market very weak with prices tending downwards. Indigo.—Nothing doing.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 4th December.

Beans.....	\$31
Borax.....	\$17 1/2 @ 18 1/2
Camphor (China).....	\$95
" Oil.....	\$167/175
Cloves.....	\$12 1/2 @ 35
Fennel Seed Oil.....	\$312 @ 320
Galangale.....	\$24 @ 5 1/2
Garlic.....	\$—
Glue.....	\$28
Grapes.....	\$11 1/2 @ 20
Ivory.....	\$220/650
Kismiss.....	\$15 @ 21
Olibanum.....	\$5 @ 25
Rosa Oil.....	\$60 @ 180
Saltpetre.....	\$10 1/2 @ 10 1/2
Sandal wood.....	\$27 @ 28
Oil.....	\$350 @ 400
Senna Leaves.....	\$7
Sugar Candy.....	\$10 1/2 @ 10 1/2
Vermilion.....	\$86 1/2
Wax.....	\$45/51

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per Steamer *Prometheus*, sailed on 23rd December. For London:—196 half-chests tea from Amoy, 300 cases preserves, 20 cases bristles, 59 cases cigars, 351 bags gum, 175 casks preserves, 168 bales feathers, 19 bales paper, 7 packages blackwoodware, etc., 25 packages private effects, 6 rolls matting, 25 packages sundries. For London/Glasgow:—20 cases ginger. For Liverpool:—50 cases ginger. For Marseilles/Havre:—50 cases star aniseed, 40 cases essential oil.

Per Steamer *Konig Albert*, sailed on 23rd Dec. For Colombo:—500 bags sugar, 467 bags beans. For Aden:—100 rolls chinaware, 50 boxes preserves, 15 bundles cassia. For Suez:—5 cases silk, 1 case grass cloth. For Odessa:—2 cases ginger, 1 case chinaware. For Smyrna:—30 cases essential oil. For Naples:—250 bales broken cassia, 37 bales feathers, 5 boxes essential oils. For Genoa:—215 bales raw silk, 100 bales pierced cocoons, 86 bales hides, 40 cases essential oil, 8 cases chinaware. For Antwerp:—280 bales bamboo, 10 cases feathers, 4 cases human hair, 2 cases cigars. For Antwerp/Hamburg:—80 cases bristles. For Antwerp/Hamburg/London:—117 bales feathers. For Antwerp/Hamburg/London/Copenhagen:—27 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—100 casks ginger, 75 casks preserves, 4 cases camphorwood ware. For Amsterdam/Rotterdam:—45 bales ginger, 2 rolls matting. For Amsterdam/Rotterdam/Hamburg/London:—150 casks ginger. For Rotterdam:—250 bales bamboo scraps, 5 cases chinaware, 1 case bambooware. For Bremen:—15 rolls matting, 82 cases sundries. For Hamburg:—111 bales feathers, 75 cases essential oil, 25 cases bristles, 9 cases feathers, 3 cases paper. For London:—20 boxes staraniseed oil.

Raw Silk.—With the close of last month buying for Europe upon an extensive scale caused a reaction, and some 3,000 piculs were taken at yen 20 to 30 about the lowest point. This enquiry was met by the majority of holders withdrawing their stocks from sale, and business was checked. During the past ten days prices have slipped back to their former level, and close weak. Waste Silk and Cocoons.—The market is very quiet, and prices are steady. Settlements 1,570 piculs, viz:—Noshi, 380 piculs; Kibiso, 1,190 piculs; Pierced Cocoons—piculs. Present stock is estimated at 10,780 piculs, viz:—Noshi, 2,900 piculs; Sundries—piculs; Kibiso 7,000 piculs; Sundries 700 piculs; Pierced Cocoons 180 piculs. Tea.—Season closed. Local settlements to date amount to 194,500 piculs, against 179,500 piculs at the corresponding date last year. Copper.—No transactions to report. Fish Oil.—About 10,000 cases changed hands since last Report at gradually declining prices. In view of the large catch of fish the tendency of the market is very weak. There are ready sellers, but scarcely any buyers.

HEMP.

Messrs. Warner, Barnes & Co. Limited of Manila, in their circular for 15th December, state:—The market has ruled very strong during the past week. America has very manifestly been trying to depress the situation, but U. K. has proved itself the stronger factor and, owing to activity there, dollar prices have advanced more than proportionately. It is probable that we shall see receipts just under 1,000,000 bales for the twelve months, and although this will prove a record year, consumption appears to have kept pace, and there seems little doubt but that we shall carry over a visible supply considerably less than the last two years. It is possible that during the next six weeks we shall have more or less average receipts, but arrivals during February and March should materially increase. Dealers are still very firm and for the small quantity of free hemp to arrive, available for this month's shipment, they ask prices much above the parity of sterling values. We quote fair current to-day at \$23.50 per picul, buyers and no sellers, equal at exchange 1/9½ to \$23.51 per ton f. o. b.

Exports since last January have been:—

To Atlantic United States 461,211 bales, against 399,099 bales in 1902, to United Kingdom 41,968 bales, against 364,299 bales, in 1902, to California and Oregon 45,362 bales, against 31,438 bales in 1902, to Australia 15,328 bales, against 9,467 bales in 1902, other parts & local consumption 56,252 bales, against 24,216 bales in 1902.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 31st December, 1903. — The Christmas holidays which have intervened since the date of our last report have interfered considerably with business during the period under review, and but little has been done in any department. The December settlement has passed off satisfactorily to-day.

BANKS. — Hongkong and Shanghai continue to be affected by the political outlook in the North, and a few shares are now obtainable at \$36½. The London quotation is unchanged at £63. Nationals are slightly firmer with buyers at \$31½.

MARINE INSURANCES. — Unions have sold at \$49½, at which the market closes with further sellers. China Traders continue on offer at \$56. North Chinas, Cantons, and Yangtszes are unchanged.

FIRE INSURANCES. — Hongkongs are unaltered with sellers at \$310. Chinas are firmer with sales at \$91½ and \$92½, the market closing with sellers at the latter rate.

SHIPPING. — Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$31½, and more shares are procurable. Indo-Chinas have dropped to \$71, at which business is reported locally to-day, and to Tls 50 in the North. China and Manilas continue on offer at \$18, and Douglasses at \$30. Star Ferries (old) have been booked at \$31, and (new) at \$19. Shell Transports close with buyers at 22/6, sellers at 23.

REFINERIES. — China Sugars close steady at \$104 with sales and a few further sellers at the rate. Luzons continue on offer at \$10.

MINING. — Raubs have declined to \$7 sellers. There is no other change to report under this head.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS. — Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been booked at \$205½ and \$206, and more shares are enquired for at the higher rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are still in the market to a small extent at \$97. New Amoy Docks continue on offer at \$38. Farnhams have advanced to Tls 120, at which shares can be placed locally.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS. — Hongkong Lands have declined to \$155, at which rate however shares are enquired for. Kowloon Lands continue in demand at \$35. West Points have sold at \$52, and a few more shares are wanted at this figure. Humphreys Estates have been booked at \$11 and \$11½, and are now enquired for at \$11½. Hongkong Hotels have again been done at \$148.

COTTON MILLS. — Ewos are procurable at Tls 33. Hongkongs have sold at \$15½ and continue in request.

MISCELLANEOUS. — Green Island Cements have been booked at \$25 and \$24½, and more shares are in the market at the lower rate. Watsons have sold and are wanted at \$4½. Electrics have been booked at \$12½ (old) and \$7 (new). Fenwicks can still be placed at \$4½. Providents have been done, and are in further request, at \$9½. Watkins have sold and can still be placed at \$74.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$660, sellers L'don, £63. 0s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$31½, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$31½, buyers
Four. Shares	21	\$10
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$400, sales & sellers
China Traders	25	\$56, sellers
North China	225	Tls 219
Yangtze	\$60	\$135
Canton	\$50	\$175
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$92½, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$31½, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$71, sales
China and Manila	\$50	\$18, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$30, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30, sales
	\$5	\$19
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	21	22/6 buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$104, sales & sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	\$1.50, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	30 cents
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$600, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	50 cents, sellers
Raubs	18/10	\$7, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$206, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$97, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$38, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 120, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$155, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$15, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$52, sales & buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$148, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$11½
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 33, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25, buyers
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 170, sales
Hongkong	\$10	\$15½, sales & buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$24½, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$8½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$7, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$145, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$49, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$245, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$300
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$15½, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12½, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$210, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sales & buyers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$71, sales & buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$5
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Canton, Hongkong Ice Cigar Companies—	\$10	\$10, nominal
Alhambra Limited	\$500	250
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., in their share report of the 23rd December state:—Owing to the Xmas holidays we are obliged to bring out our circular to-day. During the last five days a considerable business has been done, particularly in Indo-Chinas, the shorts covering for the December Settlement. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. No business is reported locally. The Hongkong quotation is nominal, \$65½, and the latest London quotation is 284. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/4½. Insurance.—In Marines the only business quoted is in North Chinas at \$220, and in Fire Insurance in China Fires at \$87½ sold to Hongkong.

Shipping.—H. C. & M. Steamboats are offering in the south at \$32.25 Indo-Chinas. The market opened on the 18th with sales at Tls 55 and 54½ December, 54 March, 53/54 April. On the 21st December shares were placed at Tls 55; 22nd at 55 and 54 for December, and 54 and 53½ March. To-day heavy sales have been effected for December Settlement at 54.25. The market closes weak. Shell Transport & Trading Co.—We hear by wire that the Company have declared an interim dividend of 1/- per share. Shanghai Tug Boats have been placed at Tls 50. Docks and Wharves.—Farnham, Boyds. On the 18th the market opened with sales for December at Tls 127, 128 March, and 129 April. 19th at 127 and 127½ December, and 128 March. On the 21st at 126½, 126 and 125 December, and 127½ March. 22nd at 120, 118 for cash. The market closes to-day weak at 117, due to a pressure of shares in the market for the end of the month. Hongkong & Whampoa Docks quoted nominal at \$204. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. A considerable business has been done in this stock, the market opening on the 18th with sales at Tls 220, 227½, 225 and 223½ March. 19th 217½ March was done. 21st 215 December. The market closes quiet but with buyers for March. Kowloon Wharves are wanted in the south at \$96. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—The only business reported is in Kaiping bearer scrip at Tls 6.20 and Tls 6.25. Lands.—Shanghai have been placed at Tls 104 and 105 cash; the market closes firm. Hongkong Lands are wanted in the south at \$157½. Industrial.—No business reported in Cottons. Sellers of Ewos at Tls 35 and Lyw Kung Mows at Tls 40. Paper and Pulp. We have to note a rise in this stock. The market opened on the 18th with business done at Tls 103½ and 110 rising later to 112½ with business yesterday at 115 cash and Dec., and 120 March. Green Island Cements are wanted in the south at \$24½. Maatschappij, & Co. in Longkats. On the 18th the market opened with sales at Tls 315 cash, 317½, 316½, and 315 Dec., 325 Feb. 332½, 330 March. 332½, 335 April. On the 19th cash and Dec. shares were placed at 315 and at 330. March. On the 21st cash shares were placed at 316 and 315 and 330 March. 22nd at 312½ cash and 312/310 Dec. 330/327½ March, 33½ April and 35 May. The market closes quiet, and cash shares could possibly be obtained at Tls 307½. Sumatras have been placed at Tls 332. Shanghai Waterworks are offering at quotations. Stores and Hotels.—A number of transactions have taken place in Hall and Holtz shares at \$33. Miscellaneous.—No business reported. Loans.—The only business has been in Astor Hotel 8% debentures at par.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 31st December.—Freights continue about the same as last reported. From Saigon to this, 7 cents per picul has been paid for ready medium sized boats to Kobe, 27 cents per picul end of January loading. Coal freights are firm. From Moji to this, \$1.60 per ton; to Singapore, \$1.75; to Swatow, \$1.80; to Philippines, \$2.75. Monthly.—The Norwegian steamer *Undine* has been closed for three months, at \$5.500 per month for Northern business. The Norwegian steamer *Prima* for two trips hence to Haiphong and back, at \$125 per day. The German steamers *Taitee* and *Taicheong* have been sold to Japanese, subject to inspection, at about £10,000 each. The following are the settlements:—

Kobe—Austrian steamer, 2,970 tons, N. gasaki to Singapore, part cargo, \$2 per ton.
Sirocco—British steamer, 2,380 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$1.70 per ton.
An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Kuchinotzu or Moji to Swatow, \$1.85 per ton.
Heathdene—British steamer, 2,377 tons, Kuchinotzu or Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Hounslow—British steamer, 1,860 tons, Kuchinotzu or Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.
Firth of Dornoch—British steamer, 1,894 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.00 per ton.
M. S. Dollar—British steamer, 2,674 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.60 per ton.
I kayun—French steamer, 1,246 tons, Hongay to Swatow, \$1.30 per ton.
Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, hence to Saigon, 2,000 cases kerosine oil, 11 cents per case.
Laerte—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 7 cents per picul.
An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Kobe, 27 cents per picul.
Undine—Norwegian steamer, 1,017 tons, monthly, 3 months, at \$5.50 per month.
Pronto—Norwegian steamer, 837 tons, monthly, 1 month, at \$4,000 per month.
Prima—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, monthly, 2 trips, hence to Haiphong and back, \$125 per day.

EXCHANGE.

THURSDAY, 31st December.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2

ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand

219

ON GERMANY.—Credits 4 months' sight

1/8

ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand

43 1/2

ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer

129 1/2

ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer

129 1/2

ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight

7 1/2

Private, 30 days' sight

72

ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand

85 1/2

ON MANILA.—On demand

nominal

ON SINGAPORE.—On demand

nominal

ON BATAVIA.—On demand

105 1/2

ON HAIPHONG.—On demand

1 p.m. pm.

ON SAIGON.—On demand

1 p.m. pm.

ON BANGKOK.—On demand

63 1/2

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

\$11.45

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael

60 30

BAR SILVER, per oz.

25 1/2

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Ceylon, Glenfarg, Nestor,

Kintuck, Moyne, Dardanus, Yangtze.

FOR LONDON.—Flintshire, Simla, Ceylon,

Glenfarg, Dardanus, Kintuck.

FOR LIVERPOOL.—Yangtze, Keemun.

FOR MARSEILLES.—Yangtze, Keemun.

FOR BREMEN.—Kiautschow, Wurzburg.

FOR HAMBURG.—Alesia, Nurnburg,

Ambria, Wurzburg.

FOR NEW YORK.—Himera, Mubia, Sikh.

FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—Indravelli.

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Tydeus, Victorai.

FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China, Athenian.

FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Chingtu, Yawata,

Maru.

FOR SINGAPORE, AND BOMBAY.—Tientsin.

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—

Kinshui Maru.

FOR BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND PENANG.—

Ischia.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

December—

- 27, Chingtu, British str., from Kobe.
- 27, Claverburn, British str., from New York.
- 27, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
- 27, Hailoon, British str., from Swatow.
- 27, Hinsang, British str., from Java.
- 27, Hikoson Maru, Jap. str., from K'otzu.
- 27, Hiroshima Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 27, Salazie, French str., from Shanghai.
- 27, Shansi, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 27, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 28, Algon, British str., from United States.
- 28, Babelsberg, German str., from Singapore.
- 28, Calohas, British str., from Moji.
- 28, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 28, Canton, British str., from Chefoo.
- 28, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 28, Deviwong, German str., from Bangkok.
- 28, Hupeh, British str., from Shanghai.
- 28, Joanne, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 28, Kanga Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
- 28, Konu Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
- 28, Kwangtab, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 28, Nurnburg, German str., from Yokohama.
- 28, Pyrrhus, British str., from London.
- 28, Queen Mary, Brit. str., from Philadelphia.
- 28, Taksang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 28, Tel machus, British str., from Saigon.
- 28, Tydeus, Brit. str., from United Kingdom.
- 28, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
- 28, Waishing, British str., from Wuhu.
- 28, Wuchang, British str., from Illoilo.
- 28, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
- 29, Choctai, German str., from Bangkok.
- 29, Hansa, German str., from Port Louis.
- 29, Kaifong, British str., from Manila.
- 29, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 29, Progress, German str., from Tounon.
- 29, Quarta, German str., from Mauritius.
- 29, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
- 29, Shingn Maru, Jap. str., from Kutchinotau.
- 29, Zaffro, British str., from Manila.

- 30, Awa Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 30, Badenia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 30, Centurion, British str., from Portsmouth.
- 30, Gregory Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
- 30, Maidzusu Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
- 30, Nanshan, British str., from Moji.
- 30, Petrarch, German str., from Nauchau.
- 30, Polynesien, French str., from Marseilles.
- 31, Bangkok, German str., from Shanghai.
- 31, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 31, Hailoon, British str., from Swatow.
- 31, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
- 31, Himera, British str., from Foochow.
- 31, Palermo, British str., from London.
- 31, Pasha, British str., from Java.

December— DEPARTURES.

- 27, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
- 27, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 27, Korea, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
- 27, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
- 27, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 28, An Pho, British str., for Swatow.
- 28, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Coast Ports.
- 28, Claverburn, British str., for Shanghai.
- 28, Perla, British str., for Manila.
- 28, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
- 28, Yushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 29, Avoca, British str., for Amoy.
- 29, Benledi, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 29, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
- 29, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
- 29, Hailoon, British str., for Swatow.
- 29, Hikoson Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 29, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
- 29, Hoihao, French str., for Haiphong.
- 29, Holstein, German str., for Haiphong.
- 29, Hupeh, British str., for Canton.
- 29, Kaga Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
- 29, Kwangtab, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 29, Kweilin, British str., for Shanghai.
- 29, Mathilde, German str., for Swatow.
- 29, Mazagon, British str., for Shanghai.
- 29, Nurnburg, German str., for Hamburg.
- 29, Progress, German str., for Swatow.
- 29, Pyrrhus, British str., for Shanghai.
- 29, Salazie, French str., for Europe.
- 29, Shansi, British str., for Canton.
- 29, Szechuen, British str., for Shanghai.
- 29, Taksang, British str., for Canton.
- 29, Tingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 29, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Macassar.
- 29, Tsintau, German str., for Bangkok.
- 29, Untine, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
- 29, Vestal, British sloop, for Formosa.
- 29, Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 29, Yaneyama Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 30, Anping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 30, Babelsberg, German str., for Amoy.
- 30, Chingtu, British str., for Australia.
- 30, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 30, Hipsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 30, Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 30, Kowloon, German str., for Canton.
- 30, Maria Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
- 30, Namsang, British str., for Calcutta.
- 30, Polynesien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 30, Victoria, Amr. str., for Tacoma.
- 30, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Sydney.
- 31, Awa Maru, Japanese str., for Yokohama.
- 31, Canton, British str., for Kobe.
- 31, Din, Portuguese gunboat, for Macao.
- 31, Glenloch, British str., for Shanghai.
- 31, Hunan, British str., for Swatow.
- 31, Johanne, German str., for Haiphong.
- 31, Kaifong, British str., for Manila.
- 31, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 31, Petrarch, German str., for Kobe.
- 31, Prima, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
- 31, Talce, German str., for Yokohama.
- 31, Tydeus, British str., for Tacoma.
- 31, Wongkoi, German str., for Paracels.
- 31, Wurzburg, German str., for Yokohama.
- 31, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Bayern*, for Hongkong, from Hamburg, Messrs. E. Schmersahl, H. Moritz, and H. Harver; from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ramsay, Mrs. Cunningham, and Miss Elsie Reuvell; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Rumcker, Rev. Bahr, Messrs. J. L. Houston, H. White, K. Oldorp, and Ch. Ruter; from Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Groesbeck; from Penang, Mrs. A. K. Battery; from Singapore, Mrs. Blanco, Messrs. Schwarzwald, H. Podjo, and J. Syraf; for Shanghai, from Hamburg, Mrs. J. Pampel,

Miss E. Sturken, Messrs. F. Kuapel, F. Ehrlich, and P. Harloff; from Southampton, Mrs. Sampson, Mr. and Mrs. Maw, Misses E. M. Squire, Ch. Steeler, Tjomeas, and Ch. Berndt, Mr. and Miss Ferrier, Rev. Behrends, Messrs. W. A. Listou, A. M. Astill, A. Miller and family, Geo. Brown, H. Steenberg, F. McCarthy, W. C. D'Harty, Edw. Wheen, Franz Doerffel, and C. Schluter; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Grun, Mr. and Mrs. Homann, Messrs. A. Haupt, W. Eller, E. Siebert, Graf Butler, and Int. Rath Reuter; from Naples, Dr. and Mrs. Doenitz and Lieut. Cecchetti; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Ruchwarzer, Mr. and Mrs. Boranver, Mr. and Mrs. Jgrooski, and Mr. O. Meyer; from Penang, Mr. W. Wilmer; from Singapore, Mr. A. McClean and Miss C. Fischler; for Nagasaki, from Penang, Mrs. Nakamura and Mrs. Ochi-darika; for Kobe, from Southampton, Mr. M. Shishido; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Mactavish; for Yokohama, from Hamburg, Mr. J. A. Lund; from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. Maitland, Mr. and Mrs. Crombie, Miss Irwine, and Mr. Richard Henzler; from Genoa, Dr. G. Hirte; from Antwerp, Mr. S. Hoshi; from Singapore, Messrs. van Nicrop and Andre Schmidt.

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